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FBIS-EAS-90-171 CONTENTS *4 September 1990*

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INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

- ASEAN Urges U.S. To Expand Investment *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 2 Sep]* 1

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

- Reportage on Middle East Situation Continues 2
  - Watanabe Summons Iraqi Envoy *[KYODO]* 2
  - UAE Said Unable To Increase Oil *[KYODO]* 2
  - Muto Urges SDF Law Revision *[KYODO]* 2
  - Vice Minister Rules Out More Aid *[KYODO]* 3
  - Government Sends Plane to Amman *[KYODO]* 3
  - Women, Children 'To Leave' 1 Sep *[KYODO]* 3
  - Evacuees at Airport Await Exodus *[KYODO]* 4
  - Further on Waiting Evacuees *[KYODO]* 4
  - Evacuees Depart Amman for Tokyo *[KYODO]* 4
  - Diplomat Families Arrive in Amman *[KYODO]* 5
  - Released Hostages Return to Tokyo *[KYODO]* 5
  - Hope for UN Mediation Expressed *[Tokyo TV]* 5
  - Twelve Women, Children Return *[KYODO]* 6
  - More Forces Funds Urged *[KYODO]* 6
  - Saudi Arabia To Raise LPG Price *[KYODO]* 6
  - Contributions Package Supported *[KYODO]* 6
  - Nakayama To Seek Soviet Help *[KYODO]* 7
  - Government 'Undecided' on Aid *[KYODO]* 7
  - More on Aid to Mideast Nations *[KYODO]* 8
  - Traders Reluctant on Measures *[KYODO]* 8
  - 'Deal' on Hostages Ruled Out *[KYODO]* 9
  - Kuwaiti Minister Arrives *[KYODO]* 9
  - Kuwaiti Minister on Assistance *[KYODO]* 9
  - Kuwaiti Official Expresses Thanks *[KYODO]* 10
  - Kaifu Pledges 'Utmost' Efforts *[KYODO]* 10
  - Kaifu Confirms Mideast Visit *[KYODO]* 11
- PRC Asks Trade Center Plan in Loan Package *[KYODO]* 11
- Soviet Delays in Payments Reportedly Increasing *[KYODO]* 12
- Gorbachev's Remarks on Territorial Dispute Noted *[KYODO]* 12
- Kaifu, Nakayama at Northern Territories Rally *[KYODO]* 12
- Soviet Asian Security Proposal To Be Discussed *[KYODO]* 12
- DA To Delete Reference to Soviet 'Threat' *[KYODO]* 13
- Economic Aid Package for Shevardnadze Prepared *[KYODO]* 13
- Shevardnadze Arrives in Tokyo for Talks *[KYODO]* 14
- Authorities Deport Soviet Soldier Stowaway *[KYODO]* 14
- Spokesman Hails UN Plan for Cambodian Peace *[KYODO]* 14
- Further on New Air Route Agreement With ROK *[KYODO]* 15
- Extremists Suspected in 31 Aug Bombing Incident *[KYODO]* 15
- Energy Industries Disagree Over IPCC Report *[KYODO]* 15
- Broadcast Satellite Said 'Limping Along' *[KYODO]* 16

North Korea

- Reportage on N-S High-Level Talks in Seoul ... 16
    - Delegation Departs for South *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 16
    - Talks To Serve Reunification *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 17
    - Daily on Need To Ease Tension *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 18
    - North Spokesman Makes Statement *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 19
    - Further on Statement *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 20
    - Radio Reports Arrival in Seoul *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 21
    - 'Progressive' Proposals by North *[KCNA]* ... 22
- President Bush's Remarks on Gulf 'Baloney' *[KCNA]* ... 22
- KCNA Reports U.S.-ROK Aerial Exercises ... 23
- U.S. Antiwar Delegates Attend Pyongyang Seminar ... 23
    - Meet With Kim Yong-sun *[KCNA]* ... 23
    - Visit Panmunjom *[KCNA]* ... 23
    - View 'Concrete Wall' *[KCNA]* ... 24
    - Seminar Opens 3 Sep *[KCNA]* ... 24
    - Joint Declaration Issued *[KCNA]* ... 25
- U.S. Women Attend Peace Seminar in Pyongyang *[KCNA]* ... 26
- Fundamental Change in U.S. Korea Policy Urged *[KCNA]* ... 26
- USSR Foreign Minister Shevardnadze Visits ... 27
    - Arrives in Pyongyang 2 Sep *[KCNA]* ... 27
    - Radio Reports Arrival *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 27
    - Visits Fighters' Tomb, Towers *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 27
    - Holds Talks With Kim Yong-nam *[Pyongyang Radio]* ... 27
    - KCNA Reports Talks ... 27
    - Treaty on Border Signed *[KCNA]* ... 27
    - Departs 3 Sep *[KCNA]* ... 28
- PRC, Soviet 'Attention' to Peninsula Noted *[KCNA]* ... 28

South Korea

- ROK Reportage on North-South Talks in Seoul ... 28
    - Itinerary for Talks Released *[YONHAP]* ... 28
    - Further on Itinerary *[THE KOREA HERALD 2 Sep]* ... 28
    - Unification Minister Comments *[Seoul TV]* ... 29
    - Influential Entourage Profiled *[YONHAP]* ... 30
    - Prospects for Success 'Mixed' *[YONHAP]* ... 30
    - South May Propose Covert Aid *[CHOSON ILBO 3 Sep]* ... 31
    - ROK Spokesman on Expectations *[YONHAP]* ... 31
    - North Delegation Enters South *[YONHAP]* ... 32
    - North Koreans Met by 200 *[YONHAP]* ... 32
    - North Spokesman Comments *[YONHAP]* ... 32
    - South Apologizes for Accident *[YONHAP]* ... 33
    - Yon: North To Remain Socialist *[YONHAP]* ... 33
- Prime Minister May Meet Kim Il-song on 18 Oct *[Seoul Radio]* ... 33
- President's Adviser on Relations With North *[Vienna DIE PRESSE 31 Aug]* ... 33
- Government To Expand Trade With North Korea *[THE KOREA TIMES 2 Sep]* ... 34
- North Intelligence Moves in Hong Kong Reported *[SEOUL SINMUN 30 Aug]* ... 34
- More Government, Media Reaction to Gulf Crisis ... 35
    - Official Denies U.S. Asked Aid *[TONG-A ILBO 31 Aug]* ... 35
    - Sharing Upkeep Assessed *[TONG-A ILBO 31 Aug]* ... 35
    - Opposition Urges Prudence *[YONHAP]* ... 35
    - Extensive Funding in Doubt *[THE KOREA TIMES 4 Sep]* ... 36
    - Iraqi Envoy Justifies Invasion *[Seoul TV]* ... 36
- Japanese Paper Reports 'Team Spirit' Reduction *[TONG-A ILBO 31 Aug]* ... 37
- Shevardnadze Urges Koreas To Reach Agreements *[YONHAP]* ... 37
- Shevardnadze Agrees To Meet ROK Counterpart *[YONHAP]* ... 38
- Rogachev on Soviet Support for N-S Dialogue *[CHOSON ILBO 2 Sep]* ... 38
- Aeroflot Representative Said Intelligence Officer *[CHOSON ILBO 1 Sep]* ... 38
- * Presidential Credibility Crisis Decried *[MAL Jun]* ... 38

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Five Students Said Killed Near Thai Border *[AFP]* 42
DAB Prepares for Military Suppression in Sep *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 2 Sep]* 42

Cambodia

Factions Prepare To Attend Talks in Jakarta 43
  Hun Sen Not To Attend *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 43
  Talks Delayed Until 6 Sep *[AFP]* 43
  Sok An Issues Message *[Bangkok THE NATION 1 Sep]* 43
  Hor Nam Hong Interviewed *[SPK]* 44
  Hor Nam Hong, Delegation Depart *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 44
  SPK Criticizes Sihanouk *[AFP]* 44
  Solomon on SRV Support *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 3 Sep]* 45
Phnom Penh on Khmer Rouge 'Secret Meeting' *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 46
Resistance Reports on Upcoming Jakarta Talks 47
  Ranariddh Not To Attend *[Radio VOK]* 47
  Son Sann Delegation Leaves *[Radio VOK]* 47
  Plan for 'Nationwide Offensive' *[Radio VOK]* 47
VODK Carries 'Text' of Sihanouk Statement 47

Indonesia

Ministry Says China To Attend Cambodia Talks *[KYODO]* 48
Alatas on Gulf Evacuations, Cambodia Meeting *[Jakarta Radio]* 48
Suharto Meets Bangladesh Foreign Minister *[ANTARA]* 48

Philippines

Reportage on Middle East Situation Continues 49
  Aquino Rejects Iraqi Oil Offer *[Manila Radio]* 49
  Manglapus Returns From Tour *[AFP]* 49
  Iraq Urges 'Peaceful Role' *[Manila Radio]* 49
Antibases Protest Held at U.S. Embassy *[Manila Radio]* 50
Council Submits Master Bases Conversion Plan *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 1 Sep]* 50
Aquino Reaffirms Confidence in Defense Chief *[Manila Radio]* 50
De Villa: Martial Law Will Not Solve Problems *[Manila Radio]* 51
De Villa Denies Army Training Command Walkout *[Manila Radio]* 51
Noble's Forces Launch Mortar Attack on Troops *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 1 Sep]* 51
NPA Warns Mayors Not To Form CAFGU's *[MALAYA 1 Sep]* 52

Thailand

U.S.'s Solomon Visits, Discusses Cambodia 52
  Welcomes PRC, USSR Agreement *[THE NATION 4 Sep]* 52
  Meets Subin, Views Iraq *[Bangkok Radio]* 52
Exiled Kuwaiti Oil Minister Gives Interview *[THE NATION 1 Sep]* 53
Iraq Implicated in Saudi Diplomats' Murders *[THE NATION 4 Sep]* 54
Chawalit Announces Will Form New Party 'Soon' *[THE NATION 1 Sep]* 54

Vietnam

Meeting With U.S. Held in New York 31 Aug *[Hanoi Radio]* 56
U.S. MIA Specialists' Activities Reported *[Hanoi International]* 56
45th National Day, August Revolution Marked 56
  Laos, Cambodia Send Greetings *[VNA]* 56
  Anniversary Celebrated Abroad *[VNA]* 57
  Leaders Attend Meeting 1 Sep *[Hanoi Radio]* 57
  Officials Attend Festival *[Hanoi Radio]* 57
  Vo Chi Cong Grants Interview *[VNA]* 58

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

More Than 1,000 Protest Involvement in Gulf *[AFP]* 59

New Zealand

Palmer Resigns; Moore Named Prime Minister *[AFP]* 59
  Moore Sworn In *[AFP]* 59
  Palmer's Career Discussed *[AFP]* 59
  Moore Called 'Survivor' *[AFP]* 60

ASEAN Urges U.S. To Expand Investment

BK0209020690 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Sep 90 p 3

[Text] ASEAN urged the United States yesterday to use its business acumen in circumventing legal barriers and expanding its investment in the region. The US must maximise investment opportunities otherwise its role will be superseded by that of Japan and Europe in the region, according to ASEAN.

Investment and trade issues dominate the two-day ASEAN-US dialogue which opened in Bangkok yesterday. Private sector representatives also participated.

At ASEAN's request, the US delegation agreed to look into various environmentally-motivated laws with economic implications towards ASEAN exports that US legislators are seeking to introduce. The US delegation, headed by Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon, cited legal impediments—such as equity—as obstructing its investment role, while ASEAN suggested these could be overcome by business sense.

Both sides concluded investment relations should be enhanced through the role of the Private Investment and Trade Opportunities (PITO) project, virtually run by the private sector with minimal official involvement, said director-general of the ASEAN Department Sarot Chawanawira. The main features of PITO, formed earlier this year, include the flow of trade and investment information; policy analysis to liberalise investment procedures; and the Overseas Private Investment Cooperation fund to be set up next year with an initial amount of US$100 million contributed by the US. PITO will have a secretariat in Bangkok, run by the Thai private sector.

As the implementation of ASEAN-US Initiative (AUI) umbrella agreement hinges on the outcome of Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations to be concluded this December, the two sides would modify areas of bilateral cooperation. They agreed that the ASEAN-US dialogue should be an annual event, desirably preceding the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting/Post-Ministerial Conferences forum, where ministers of ASEAN, the US, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the European Community meet yearly, according to Mr Sarot.

With the ASEAN-US dialogue being an exchange forum for broad economic policy, specific trade issues will be taken up by the Economic Cooperation Committee, chaired by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Robert Fauver.

At the time when the AUI is awaiting the Uruguay Round result, the EC, with its headquarters in Washington, will hold a monthly meeting with ASEAN represented by its diplomatic staff in charge of commerce.

Former Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Anan Panyarachun, who chairs the ASEAN-US Business Council, noted during the meeting yesterday that ASEAN should take its intra-regional economic cooperation more seriously. Such cooperation, he said, should proceed along the direction of market-oriented, instead of the current project-oriented approach.

Japan

Reportage on Middle East Situation Continues

Watanabe Summons Iraqi Envoy

OW3108135890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1333 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Tokyo, Aug. 31 KYODO—Japan on Friday urged Iraq to free at least 82 out of over 400 Japanese trapped in Iraq, not just the 68 women and children Iraq has agreed to release, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The Iraqi Government said Friday it would release the 68 Japanese women and children. But the Japanese Embassy demanded that Iraq also free eight women and four children who are family members of Japanese Embassy staffers, as well as two adult men also being held at the al-Mansour Melia Hotel in Baghdad.

One of the two men is suffering from heart disease while the other hopes to leave with his wife, who is about to have a baby.

Japan Airlines (JAL) said it is planning to serve a special flight to Jordan's capital Amman on Saturday to pick up the Japanese at the request of the Transport Ministry. Fifty-two people, including doctors and nurses, will be on the flight from Tokyo to Amman, JAL officials said. JAL hopes to return to Tokyo with the Japanese on Sunday, the Transport Ministry said. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Iraqi Ambassador to Japan Rashid M.S. al-Rifa'i was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and met Makoto Watanabe, director general of the ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, officials said.

Watanabe called on Iraq to facilitate the rapid departure of the Japanese women and children as has been promised by the Iraqi Government, the officials said. He also urged Iraq to allow freedom of movement for other detained Japanese nationals, they said.

Officials said Watanabe explained to al-Rifa'i the measures that Japan announced Wednesday regarding its contributions to multinational forces stationed in the Persian Gulf and to Middle Eastern countries whose economies are suffering from the United Nations-approved economic sanctions against Iraq.

Rifa'i promised to convey Japan's message to his government, they said.

UAE Said Unable To Increase Oil

OW3108143290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1352 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 31 KYODO—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) state-run oil concern Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. has told Japan's oil industry that it will be unable to increase the September delivery as requested, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] said Friday.

This, however, is not likely to have a significant impact on the economy due to appropriate arrangements by the Japanese private oil companies to secure their necessary quotas in the September delivery contracts, according to officials at the ministry's Agency of Natural Resources and Energy.

The officials said they have yet to confirm details of the notification and reasons for the UAE's inability to supply additional oil in September.

The UAE had earlier sounded out how much the Japanese oil firms wanted on top of the agreed September delivery following an accord reached recently by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), according to industry sources. Under the pact agreed in principle on Wednesday by a majority of the OPEC member states on a temporary hike in oil output quotas, the UAE is expected to increase its oil production to some 2 million barrels per day (bpd) from the present ceiling of 1.5 million bpd.

In a statement issued at the end of the OPEC's recent meeting, the organization's major members expressed their readiness to defend the developing countries' interests. The Third World countries are considered to be hardest hit by skyrocketing oil prices and supply shortfalls as a result of the losses of oil from Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait.

The industry sources said the UAE's inability to increase supplies to Japan may be because due to priority it has decided to give developing nations. The sources also cited a capacity shortage of loading facilities in the UAE's major sea ports as another reason.

There is a view, however, that the UAE is likely to respond to Japan's request for more oil once this shortfall is overcome, according to the sources.

Muto Urges SDF Law Revision

OW3108151790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1458 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 31 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister [MITI] Kabun Muto on Friday called for a revision of the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] Law to pave the way for the dispatch of SDF personnel abroad. Muto was the first cabinet minister of the government of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to propose the revision of the law banning the overseas dispatch of SDF troops.

Muto's remarks, made during a videotaping session for a television talk program, are expected to draw fire from the opposition parties, which say the revision of the SDF Law may lead to the amendment of the war-renouncing Constitution, political sources said. The Constitution prohibits the use of force as a means of settling international disputes and is interpreted as banning the exercise of collective defense.

Muto said that the government should tackle the problem of revising of the SDF Law in the next extraordinary Diet session and seek understanding of the nation on the issue. He was commenting on Japan's latest package aimed at contributing to international efforts to resolve the Persian Gulf crisis triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Muto said that Japan cannot offer cooperation in the form of sending SDF medical personnel to the Gulf region because of constitutional constraints.

Under the six-point package announced by Kaifu on Wednesday, Japan will send a civilian medical team of some 100 experts to the Gulf, as well as providing commercial aircraft and ships to transport nonmilitary commodities such as water and medicine.

Japan will also provide 1 billion dollars for the U.S.-led multinational forces deployed in the Gulf region and extend financial assistance to the Middle East nations suffering economic hardships resulting from an international trade ban imposed on Iraq.

The medical staff to be dispatched will consist of only civilian medical experts and not include doctors and nurses belonging to the SDF.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto on Friday told the House of Representatives Cabinet Committee that the government is ready to take appropriate measures to send SDF doctors if the public strongly calls for the dispatch of SDF medical specialists to the Middle East.

A group of Diet members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) also called on Kaifu on Friday to send SDF personnel to the Gulf. The group, headed by Takujiro Hamada, meeting with Kaifu at his official residence, said that within the current legal framework it is possible for Japan to offer rear support to the multinational forces by sending a ship carrying SDF doctors to the high seas.

The junior lawmakers also said that the government will be able to send SDF doctors and nurses directly to the disputed area if it revises the SDF Law. They asked the prime minister to convene the Diet session as soon as possible, if necessary, to arrange legislative measures for the overseas dispatch of the SDF personnel.

Vice Minister Rules Out More Aid

OW3108121290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1200 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 31 KYODO—Vice Finance Minister Masami Kogayu said Friday the ministry has no plans for additional financial aid to support the U.S. military deployment in the Middle East or to assist nations suffering because of the Persian Gulf crisis.

"Since Japan has committed to aid totaling 1 billion dollars, it is not considering further boosting fund assistance at this point" despite appeals from U.S. President George Bush, Kogayu said.

Kogayu said Japan opposes linking an increase in its share of the cost of stationing U.S. forces in Japan with Bush's calls for greater contributions by allies to solving the Gulf crisis. At a press conference, the vice finance minister pledged, however, to continue efforts to shoulder a larger share of the expenses of the U.S. forces here under the framework of the Japan- U.S. security treaty.

Government Sends Plane to Amman

OW0109002890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0017 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 1 KYODO—A government-chartered Japan Airlines plane left here on Saturday morning for Amman, capital of Jordan, to pick up Japanese women and children to be released by the Iraqi Government from confinement in a Baghdad hotel. The plane is scheduled to arrive in Amman at 4:15 P.M. (local time).

A total of 72 persons including Foreign Ministry officials, doctors, and crew members were aboard the DC-10 plane.

The plane is expected to immediately return to Japan from Amman carrying the Japanese women and children if they arrive there on their release from Baghdad, government officials said. The JAL plane has been instructed to wait in Amman even if the arrival of its passengers is delayed.

The plane is to carry 68 Japanese women and children and 12 family members of Japanese Embassy staff in Baghdad.

Women, Children 'To Leave' 1 Sep

OW0109094790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0935 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 1 (KYODO)—Japanese women and children detained by the Iraqi authorities at a Baghdad hotel will be allowed to leave Iraq on Saturday evening, according to a report reaching the Foreign Ministry.

According to the report from the Japanese Embassy in Baghdad, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry informed Japan's Ambassador to Iraq Kunio Katakura that the Iraqi Government will send the Japanese nationals to Amman aboard an Iraqi plane. The final negotiations on the release of the Japanese hostages are under way between embassy officials and Iraqi Foreign Ministry officials, the report said.

A separate report from Iraq later quoted a high-ranking Iraqi official as saying that 66 Japanese will leave Baghdad at 6 P.M. (11 P.M. Japan time) on an Iraqi airplane. Japan has called on the Iraqi authorities to allow 82 Japanese nationals, including 68 women and children stranded in the al-Mansour Melia Hotel in Baghdad, to leave Iraq for home.

In a related development, a Japan Airlines (JAL) 200-seat DC-10 left New Delhi for Amman on Saturday. The government-chartered plane, which left Tokyo earlier in the day, is scheduled to arrive in the Jordanian capital at 9:25 P.M. to pick up the Japanese women and children.

According to Katakura, who was allowed into the hotel Thursday to meet the Japanese there for the first time, there are 70 Japanese, including two men and 40 women, at the hotel. They were among some 200 Japanese who evacuated Iraqi-occupied Kuwait on August 23.

The embassy officials said that there are 143 Japanese men being held at military installations and industrial facilities across Iraq after being taken by Iraqi authorities from the hotel August 25 and 26.

Evacuees at Airport Await Exodus

OW0109144490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1420 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 1 (KYODO)—Sixty-eight Japanese women and children arrived at Baghdad's airport Saturday afternoon to fly out of Iraq to Jordan after days of confinement at a hotel in the Iraqi capital, Japanese officials said.

Buses chartered by the Japanese Embassy transported the evacuees to the airport from the al-Mansour Melia Hotel where they had been confined since August 22 and 23 after arriving from Iraqi-occupied Kuwait. The Japanese are to be flown to Amman on an Iraqi aircraft scheduled to depart at 6 P.M. (11 P.M. Japan time) [1400 GMT].

U.S., British, and other foreign women and children are also to be flown out of Iraq to London and Washington on another Iraqi airplane at the same time.

Iraq said Saturday's exodus came from "humanitarian reasons." Many Japanese, U.S., British, and other foreign males, however, remain detained at military and industrial sites in Iraq which are possible targets of U.S.-led multinational forces deployed in the Persian Gulf following Iraq's August 2 invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait.

Further on Waiting Evacuees

OW0109161790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1603 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 1 KYODO—Two chartered Iraqi aircraft were scheduled to leave Baghdad on Saturday evening carrying 68 Japanese women and children on one plane, and British, U.S., and other nationals aboard the other.

The Boeing 737 with the Japanese, mostly the wives and children of Japanese businessmen in the Middle East, will go to Amman, from where they are to be transported back to Tokyo aboard a specially dispatched Japan Airlines (JAL) airplane that arrived in the Jordanian capital Saturday.

The other Iraqi aircraft, with 132 British, 14 Americans, and an unknown number of women and children of other nationalities, plus four to five ill Americans who were in Iraqi-occupied Kuwait, will fly to London, and the Americans will go on to Washington. Iraq said it allowed the evacuation for "humanitarian reasons."

Japanese and other foreign males are still kept hostage in Iraq at strategic military and industrial sites which Iraq believes may be targets of attacks by the U.S.-led multilateral forces in the Persian Gulf.

Most of the Japanese who left Iraq on Saturday were confined to the al-Mansour Melia Hotel by Iraq on August 22 and 23 after arriving from Iraqi-occupied Kuwait, along with 143 Japanese males who later were rounded up and taken away.

One of the males, a United Nations worker in Kuwait, was released Friday and flew out of Iraq and arrived in Amman earlier Saturday. Three buses chartered by the Japanese Embassy transported the evacuees to the airport.

Passports of 68 Japanese were returned as of Saturday by the Iraqi authorities but there were no exit visas in them, Japanese officials said.

Japanese officials also said Iraq has been asking France to allow a stopover of the evacuation aircraft at Paris before landing in London.

Evacuees Depart Amman for Tokyo

OW0209040090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0347 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Amman, Sept. 2 KYODO—A total of 70 Japanese nationals, who were allowed to leave Baghdad by the Iraqi Government, departed from the Jordanian capital of Amman Saturday night aboard a Japan Airlines [JAL] plane for home.

The group includes 68 women and children who were held by Iraqi authorities at the al-Mansour Melia Hotel in Baghdad since they moved out of Iraqi-occupied Kuwait on August 22 and 23. Yasuhiko Tashiro, a 36-year-old businessman, who was confined at another hotel, was also allowed to leave Baghdad.

The 69 Japanese were flown to Amman from Baghdad on an Iraqi aircraft. A Japanese United Nations official, who left Baghdad earlier in the day, joined the group at Amman. The government-chartered JAL plane is scheduled to arrive at New Tokyo International Airport in Narita around 8 P.M. Sunday (Japan time) via New Delhi.

Meanwhile in Baghdad, the Iraqi Government informed the Japanese Embassy there that it would also allow 12 family members of Japanese diplomats to leave the Iraqi capital on Sunday afternoon.

In Tokyo, the Foreign Ministry issued a statement regretting that a total of 143 Japanese men are still detained at unknown locations in Iraq. The Japanese men as well as foreign males are believed to be held at military and industrial facilities as "human shields" to prevent possible attacks by U.S.-led multinational forces.

Diplomat Families Arrive in Amman

OW0209093490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0911 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 2 (KYODO)—Twelve family members of Japanese diplomats on Sunday afternoon (local time) arrived in Amman on an Iraqi Airways plane from Baghdad, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The four children and eight women on Saturday were refused passage on a chartered Japan Airlines plane Saturday by Iraqi authorities at the airport. However the Iraqi Government informed the Japanese Embassy in Baghdad that they would allow the 12 dependents of Japanese diplomats to leave the Iraqi capital Sunday.

Released Hostages Return to Tokyo

OW0209120490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1110 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Narita, Chiba Pref., Sept. 2 (KYODO)—A total of 70 Japanese, allowed by the Iraqi Government to leave Baghdad, arrived here Sunday aboard a government-chartered Japan Airlines plane. The group includes 68 women and children who were held by Iraqi authorities at the al-Mansour Melia Hotel in Baghdad after leaving Iraqi-occupied Kuwait on August 22 and 23. A 36-year-old businessman who was confined at another hotel was also allowed to leave Baghdad.

In Amman, a Japanese United Nations official, who left Baghdad earlier in the day, joined the group of 69, who were flown there from Baghdad on an Iraqi plane.

Meanwhile, 12 women and children, the family members of Japanese diplomats in Kuwait, arrived in Amman on Sunday after being allowed to leave Baghdad. The Foreign Ministry issued a statement regretting that a total of 143 Japanese men are still detained at unknown locations in Iraq.

Two Japanese men confined by Iraqi authorities at the Al-Mansour Melia Hotel after 143 other Japanese men were taken from the hotel were released Sunday, the Foreign Ministry said.

The two men, aged 53 and 30, are employees of the major construction company Fujita Corp. They were in Kuwait on a business trip when Iraqi troops invaded the country and had been detained in the hotel after moving to Baghdad. The Japanese Embassy in Baghdad urged Iraq to release them for humanitarian reasons because the 53-year-old had a heart disorder. The sick man was taken by Iraqi authorities by car to the home of the other released man who was stationed in Baghdad, the ministry said.

Hope for UN Mediation Expressed

OW0309070290 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Seventy Japanese who had been confined in Iraq returned home yesterday. The Foreign Ministry plans to interview them starting today to find out details concerning the situation in Iraq, and to confirm the whereabouts of 141 Japanese men still being kept in Iraq as hostages.

Seventy Japanese, consisting of 68 women and children and two men, returned home last night. Since direct contacts with Japanese detained by the Iraqi side have been prohibited, the Foreign Ministry wants to ask those Japanese who returned home yesterday, about details concerning the situation at the hotel where they were kept, and how the Japanese men were taken away. The ministry will first interview the two men, who reportedly stayed until the last minute with those Japanese men who are now being detained as hostages.

In Iraq, 141 Japanese men are still being detained as hostages at military facilities. However, the Foreign Ministry, by interviewing the people who returned yesterday, will confirm the whereabouts of those Japanese men and the current situation with regard to their captivity. At the same time, the ministry will continue to strongly demand that the Iraqi Government release them.

Meanwhile, 12 family members of the Japanese Embassy staff in Kuwait spent last night at a hotel in Amman. The Iraqi Government previously rejected a request that they be allowed to depart, but subsequently approved it. They will leave for Japan this afternoon, Japan time, and are scheduled to arrive at Narita Airport in the afternoon of 4 September.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto, in a news conference held this morning, said that more than 300 Japanese are still staying in Iraq. Of those Japanese, 141 men were taken away by the Iraqi side. He also said that the government will exert all possible efforts in order to free these people, and to realize their departure from Iraq. Moreover, referring to the fact that UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's mediation with the Iraqi side had failed, Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto said he regrets the failure, but he sincerely hopes the UN will continue tenacious negotiations in the future as well.

With regard to this issue, Prime Minister Kaifu, in a news conference held this morning, said: Secretary General Perez de Cuellar says he will continue to exert efforts. I hope discussions will continue in the future as well, with the United Nations playing a central role.

Twelve Women, Children Return

OW0409134090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0910 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Narita, Chiba Pref., Sept. 4 KYODO—Twelve Japanese women and children who are family of Japanese Embassy staffers in Kuwait and were detained in a Baghdad hotel after fleeing Iraqi- occupied Kuwait, returned here Tuesday on board a Japan Airlines aircraft.

The 12 Japanese, eight women and four children, were allowed to leave Iraq on Sunday and flew to the Jordanian capital of Amman.

Sixty-eight Japanese women and children confined in a Baghdad hotel after leaving Iraqi-occupied Kuwait were allowed to leave Iraq and returned here on Sunday. As a result, all the Japanese women and children in Kuwait and Iraq who wanted to go home have returned to Japan.

More Forces Funds Urged

OW0209125190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1231 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 2 (KYODO)—Senior ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] politician Toshio Komoto called Sunday for a big increase in Japan's financial aid to the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Persian Gulf area.

In a speech delivered at a seminar for his faction members at the resort town of Oiso in Kanagawa prefecture, west of Tokyo, Komoto said that if the Middle East crisis continues, Japan's annual economic growth rate could drop by 1 percent, resulting in a loss of 30 billion dollars. "It is only natural (for Japan) to increase its funding because it is financial assistance for peace efforts by the United Nations," Komoto said.

Komoto leads the fifth-largest faction within the LDP.

Japan announced Thursday it will extend 1 billion dollars to support the U.S.-led multinational forces.

However Komoto, who has served on cabinets in several administrations, criticized calls within the LDP for constitutional revision to allow Self-Defense Forces (SDF) troops to be dispatched overseas. Komoto said he disagrees with any "broad interpretation" of Article 98 of the Constitution which would enable the dispatch of the SDF overseas. Article 98 states that treaties concluded by Japan and the established laws of other nations shall be faithfully observed.

Komoto said the central point of the present constitution is the renunciation of war as stipulated in the preamble and Article 9. Article 9 bans the use of force as a means of settling international disputes.

Komoto said Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who belongs to the Komoto faction, has promised to adhere to the principles of the current constitution. He said increased calls for constitutional revision would trigger confusion in society.

Saudi Arabia To Raise LPG Price

OW0309120590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1110 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 3 KYODO—Saudi Arabia said Monday it will raise the price of its September supply of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) to Japan by some 64 percent, according to industry sources. Prices of LPG for households, industry and taxies will be raised in early October, they said.

The move, along with a hike in other petroleum products such as gasoline beginning in the middle of the month, is expected to seriously affect ordinary consumers since the Saudis supply more than 40 percent of Japan's imported LPG, they said.

The sources said Saudi Arabia had informed them that prices of propane gas will rise 64 percent from August to about 165.88 dollars per ton, while those of butane gas will increase 64 percent to 163.61 dollars per ton.

Meanwhile, the Institute of Energy Economics said in its first special survey on LPG prices that progane gas for household use were 47 yen higher per 10 cubic meters as of August 29 over those at the end of June. Prices per 20 cubic meters are 11 yen above those in the previous survey, according to a report based on a questionnaire conducted on about 500 retailers across the country.

The institute said the price rises were due not to the crisis in the Persian Gulf but to a change in the way prices are being calculated. "The impact of the Gulf crisis has not manifested itself yet," the report warned.

The special survey is conducted once a week at the request of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, which is reportedly concerned that oil companies may try and cash in on the Gulf crisis.

Contributions Package Supported

OW0309134090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1139 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 3 KYODO—Some 60 percent of Japanese support the government's package of contributions to multinational efforts to resolve the Persian Gulf crisis, a KYODO NEWS SERVICE poll showed Monday. But the poll also showed that an 83 percent majority are opposed to sending the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to the troubled region.

The younger generation show most support for the measures announced by the government of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu last week to help contain the tension in the Middle East region, according to the KYODO poll. However, 38 percent of Japanese are dissatisfied with the prime minister's leadership in coping with the situation, the survey revealed.

The key findings in the recent poll are expected to influence the government in finalizing its draft law for cooperation in the United Nations-centered peacekeeping efforts.

A package of contributions for solving the Gulf crisis announced by the government on August 29 called for arrangements for chartered private aircraft and vessels for transport of food and other emergency materials. It also allows for the dispatch of medical goods, as well as 1 billion dollars in assistance to the international peacekeeping forces.

KYODO interviewed a total of 1,000 eligible voters, including 485 males and 515 females, in all 47 prefectures nationwide by telephone to ask how they assessed the Japanese Government response to the Middle East situation on August 31 and September 1. The survey results, issued Monday, showed 71 percent of Japanese covered condemned the August 2 Iraqi invasion of neighboring Kuwait as unpardonable. Ninety percent of respondents expressed concern over the potential impact on Japan of the aftermath of the conflict in the Persian Gulf, an oil-rich region on which Japan is heavily dependent.

The 59 percent of the pollees accepting the government's contribution as reasonable outrated 22 percent of others who considered it as too much. Sixteen percent of other pollees said the measures were insufficient.

The 54 percent support rating for the leadership shown by Kaifu in drawing up the government response to the Gulf situation also exceeded the 43 percent who were dissatisfied.

Seventy-two percent of those surveyed echoed calls for a solution to the Middle East crisis through United Nations mediation, compared with only 4 percent supporting multinational military intervention under U.S. initiative.

The call within the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) for revision of the war-renouncing constitution to boost Japan's dedication to international peacekeeping efforts won support from only 13 percent, with 60 percent of others opting for limiting such cooperation to revision of laws within the scope of constitutional provisions.

Despite support for greater financial contributions toward that end by two-thirds of those polled, 83 percent opposed dispatching an SDF mission. Twenty percent of the respondents in their 20's backed the controversial idea of sending a Japanese paramilitary force overseas, compared with an average 15 percent for all pollees.

Government Spokesman Misoji Sakamoto welcomed the findings, saying it indicated the people's understanding of his government's stance in coping with the Gulf situation. Sakamoto said the survey endorsed the public's confidence in Japanese contributions to resolving the crisis in spite of U.S. claims that it was insufficient.

Nakayama To Seek Soviet Help

OW0309072090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0651 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 3 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Monday that he will call on Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze during their talks on Wednesday to help win the release of Japanese and other foreign nationals "held hostage" in Iraq, according to Foreign Ministry officials.

Officials said Nakayama's remarks were contained in a message read over the international airwaves via Radio Japan and directed to Japanese detainees in Iraq.

"I intend to request Foreign Minister Shevardnadze in our upcoming ministerial talks to cooperate with Japan in the achieving urgent release (of detainees in Iraq)," Nakayama said. One official clarified that Nakayama was "naturally" referring to detainees of all nationalities, not only the 344 Japanese nationals still restricted from leaving the country.

Nakayama will hold his first session of talks with Shevardnadze on Wednesday. Officials said the agenda of that meeting will focus on the Persian Gulf crisis and other issues of an international nature.

Nakayama told the Japanese detainees that the government is doing all it can to bring them home. "I would like you to persevere just a little bit longer," he was quoted as saying.

He welcomed the fact that women and children were recently permitted to leave Iraq, but said, "the fact that many foreign nationals are still being held hostage is something that is difficult to forgive from a humanitarian perspective and in consideration of international law."

Government 'Undecided' on Aid

OW0309073590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0620 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Monday he hopes U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to continue pursuing a solution to the Gulf crisis Monday as Japan prepares to receive U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady to discuss more funds for multinational forces in the Persian Gulf.

"I believe the United Nations will remain at the center of talks (with Iraq,) and I am anticipating there will be further discussions," Kaifu told reporters following reports quoting Perez de Cuellar as saying that two days of talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz had failed to produce progress toward a solution of the monthlong crisis.

Kaifu reiterated a call for Iraq to heed international opinion and withdraw its troops from Kuwait.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto told a regularly scheduled news conference that Japan would like Perez de Cuellar to seek further opportunities to conduct "tenacious negotiations."

Meanwhile, a government source indicated Japan may be willing to add to its pledge of 1 billion dollars to support the multinational forces in the Gulf if their stay in the region is prolonged. A high government official said Japan is "undecided" over whether to add to the 1 billion dollars promised last week to assist the transport to the Middle East of food and medical supplies, and provide other logistical support.

Sakamoto has said that 1 billion dollars is all the government can afford to spare from its budget for fiscal 1990, which ends next March, and that Japan is not considering increasing the amount.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it seems likely that multinational forces will be in the Middle East over the long term in the wake of Perez de Cuellar's lack of progress in talks with Iraq.

Asked about a U.S. request to make available 60 million dollars for the troops each month, the official said he expects to hear a detailed explanation from Brady. The U.S. Treasury secretary is slated to visit Japan on Friday as part of his tour of Western nations to mobilize financing for the U.S.-led multinational troops.

Brady is expected to see Kaifu, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, according to Japanese Government sources accompanying Hashimoto in Paris. The sources said that Brady is unlikely to ask Japan to top its offer of 1 billion dollars, though he is expected to bring up financial aid to other Middle East nations.

Last week Kaifu announced an initiative to provide financial assistance to Middle East countries whose economies have been hurt by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, and subsequent comprehensive economic sanctions that have interrupted trade.

Tokyo has yet to state the amount of assistance it will offer Egypt and other countries in the region.

Hashimoto is visiting France, Italy, West Germany, and Britain to discuss the Gulf crisis with his counterparts. He is to return home Friday afternoon.

More on Aid to Mideast Nations

OW0309134490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1330 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Monday that officials will decide by the month's end on concrete sums to fulfil Japan's pledge of a "second round" of economic aid to Middle East nations hit hard by the United Nations trade embargo of Iraq. Both Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama had agreed in a brief session that the stalemate between multilateral forces and Iraqi forces will continue for some time.

Japanese priorities will be placed on evacuating its remaining 344 nationals still in Iraq while seeking a solution to the crisis through international efforts, they said.

The prime minister said preparations for the additional Middle East aid package would be completed in time for his meeting with U.S. President George Bush, after attending the United Nations Childrens' Summit in New York in late September. Working-level officials are studying the possibility of 3 billion dollars in aid to Oman, Turkey and Jordan, and a further 1 billion dollars to assist Egypt, government sources said.

Kaifu committed 1 billion dollars in food, water and other aid for the multilateral force in the Gulf in announcing Japan's contribution to the crisis last week. But no figure was given for a pledged economic fund for other Middle East states.

The prime minister said a final review would await the return of Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who is in Europe to discuss the plan, and another ministry envoy in the U.S. Japanese officials are also to consult with International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank officials and the finance ministers of the seven major industrialized countries before solidifying plans.

Sources say a finalized Japanese aid plan would be part of a multilateral effort similar to those carried out for Eastern Europe and the Philippines.

A U.S. plan tabled soon after Kaifu's pledge last week also sought aid for states affected economically, and allied contributions specifically to finance the U.S. forces in the area.

Traders Reluctant on Measures

OW0309132590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1301 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 3 KYODO—Japanese trading houses are reluctant to cooperate with the Foreign Ministry idea to use their networks to distribute supplies to the multinational forces in the Persian Gulf region. They fear cooperation could lead to Iraqi retaliation in the form of harm to their employees now taken as hostages in the country.

The Foreign Ministry has proposed to mobilize the networks of Japanese trading houses in the region to procure and transport a supply of necessities like food to the rear bases of the forces. Trading houses are quite confident about their ability to carry out the task.

A senior official of a major trading house said, "We could measure up to the task 120 percent.

The Foreign Ministry's scheme is aimed at boosting Japan's contributions to the efforts to restore peace through the private sector's cooperation, since the government has claimed it is limited by the Constitution. But the problem with Japanese trading companies is that a total of 55 employees have been taken as hostages by Iraq.

An official of one of the major trading houses asked by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to cooperate in the project said, "Iraq may retaliate by harming our employees if the name of our company is made public. Can the government assure that such a thing won't happen?"

MITI said it would take every effort to secure the safety of the hostages, but most of the companies are apparently not eager to go along with the government. A top-ranking official of a leading trading company said, "We would like to avoid participating in the task if possible."

But as many companies including Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways have already decided to do their bit, trading houses may find it difficult to refuse. Some of them are also concerned about becoming involved in military-related actions through the scheme.

"Where can we draw the line between the military and nonmilitary matters under such circumstances? Are the trucks designed to transport soldiers considered military?" said an official of a major trading company.

"If the government should press their responsibilities to us citing the restrictions of the Constitution, that would be a violation of the spirit of the Constitution. I have great doubts about being forced into military actions under the name of international cooperation," said a president of a major trading house.

'Deal' on Hostages Ruled Out

OW0409160790 Tokyo KYODO in English 1502 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 4 KYODO—A Foreign Ministry spokesman on Tuesday refused an Iraqi offer for a partial lifting of Japanese sanctions against that country in return for the release of Japanese men being held as "human shields" at strategic installations across Iraq.

"We have no intention of making a deal on the issue of those people who have been unlawfully detained and kept against their will," said spokesman Taizo Watanabe in a meeting with foreign correspondents. "That is something we cannot condone from the viewpoint of international law and humanitarian considerations," he added.

The spokesman was referring to an offer made Monday by Iraqi Cultural and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim in an exclusive interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE. The Iraqi minister said that Iraq will release the detained Japanese if Tokyo partly lifts sanctions so as to allow his country to export oil and to import foods and medicines.

He said that Iraqi Ambassador to Tokyo Rashid M.S. al-Rifai had conveyed the offer to the Japanese Government but had not received a response. Watanabe, however, denied that Japan had received any official notice from Iraq to that effect.

Jasim said the 141 Japanese men taken away from a Baghdad hotel are being held as "guests" at key airport military installations.

Watanabe expressed dismay at criticism that Japan's pledge of 1 billion dollars to the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia is insufficient in light of Japan's economy and its stake in the Middle East. "I was surprised, because 1 billion dollars is not peanuts," he said. "It is a rather sizable amount."

He said that, judging from statements made by press secretaries and spokesmen of the U.S. Government, "it is not true to say that the United States is totally dissatisfied."

Watanabe noted that in addition to aiding multinational forces, Japan has pledged to extend a large package of assistance to Middle Eastern countries whose economies have suffered most from the sanctions against Iraq.

The spokesman would not comment on the prospects of the 1 billion dollar figure being increased following the visit to Japan of U.S. Treasury Scretary Nicholas Brady on Friday.

Kuwaiti Minister Arrives

OW0209095490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0912 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 2 (KYODO)—Kuwaiti Finance Minister Shaykh 'Ali Khalifa al-'Adhbi al-Sabah arrived here for a four-day visit as a special envoy. Khalifa, who is carrying a message from Kuwait Emir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, will meet Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, the Foreign Ministry said.

Kuwaiti Minister on Assistance

OW0409141190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1340 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 4 KYODO—Kuwait's exiled government is providing considerable amounts of financial assistance to countries facing economic hardships due to United Nations sanctions against Iraq and occupied Kuwait, Finance Minister Shaykh 'Ali Khalifa al-'Adhbi al-Sabah said here Tuesday.

Al-Sabah said that Kuwait has complete management of its assets, and is using them to help mitigate the economic impact of the month- old Gulf crisis.

Kuwait typically makes available 7 percent of its gross national product (GNP) as financial assistance, Al-Sabah told a news conference. "I can assure you that at this particular moment it would be considerably more generous," he said. In 1988 Kuwait's GNP amounted to 26.3 billion dollars, according to a World Bank estimate.

The finance minister declined to specify which countries were major recipients, saying only that the aid was offered after the governments announced they would abide by sanctions, and not as an enticement.

Al-Sabah, here as special envoy of Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al- Sabah, said that the exiled government has been given complete management of state assets.

Some bankers and finance ministers expressed concern that the exiled government would move to sell its assets if given control, after it fled the Iraqi invaders, he said. "You have not seen us as sellers of assets in various markets," the finance minister said. "In fact to the contrary, to show our confidence in the various markets, we have been net buyers rather than net sellers."

Al-Sabah said the funds were being used in part to support Kuwaitis both inside and outside of Kuwait.

Shortly after Iraq's August 2 invasion of its tiny oil rich neighbor, most governments announced they were freezing Kuwaiti assets to prevent them from being raided by Baghdad.

Portraying Iraqi President Saddam Husayn as a "criminal" and a persistent threat to his neighbors, Al-Sabah said that the international community has a right to ask for "safeguards" to ensure the Iraqi leader will not disturb peace in the region. However, he stopped short of calling for Husayn's overthrow.

"The decision on who rules any country is a decision to be taken by the people of that country, and by the people of that country alone," he said.

Al-Sabah said the exiled government in Saudi Arabia is in touch with resistance forces in Kuwait, but would not speculate on their numbers.

About one-quarter of Kuwait's 700,000 citizens are currently outside the country, he said. He indicated those who remained home may be suffering from food shortages because Iraqi forces have taken large amounts of food to Iraq.

Al-Sabah arrived Sunday on a four-day visit to thank Japan for supporting the international effort to oust Iraq from Kuwait and restore the legitimate government.

Kuwaiti Official Expresses Thanks

OW0309091290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0850 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 3 KYODO—The finance minister of the exiled Kuwaiti Government Monday expressed gratitude for Japan's measures aimed at solving the Persian Gulf crisis, officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said.

Shaykh 'ali Khalifa al-Adhbi al-Sabah, currently in Japan as a special envoy, told International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto that his government especially appreciates that Japan decided to take steps before the United Nations Security Council's resolution. He is quite optimistic about the outcome of the conflict, saying the world is backing the U.N. resolution, the MITI officials said.

It is also a good opportunity to curtail Iraq's political clout, he was quoted as saying.

Muto made it clear to him that the Japanese Government regards the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as an unpardonable act. Muto said Japan has taken unprecedentedly firm steps to contribute to an early settlement of the crisis, according to the officials.

In a 30-minute meeting later with Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, 'Ali conveyed his government's appreciation for Japan's taking the measures it did without buckling under Iraqi threats against Japanese nationals.

Officials said Nakayama replied that Japan's stance is that the issue of implementing economic sanctions against Iraq is separate from the issue of taking hostages.

Nakayama said Japan hopes to see the legitimate government of Kuwait, headed by the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, returned to Kuwait as soon as possible. Until that time, Nakayama assured the emissary, Japan will continue to maintain friendly relations with that government.

Nakayama said Japan cannot accept the disruption of the international order through the exercise of military force.

Officials said 'Ali did not make any specific requests of Japan. But they noted that he thanked Japan not only for the actions it has already taken, but for those actions he anticipates it will take in the future.

'Ali also met Monday with Eishiro Saito, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), and representatives of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce. On Tuesday, he is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and hand him a personal message from Kuwait's amir, officials said.

Kaifu Pledges 'Utmost' Efforts

OW0409092790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0846 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 4 KYODO—A special envoy from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah thanked Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu Tuesday for Japan's "brave" support of his exiled government, despite Iraq's detention of Japanese hostages.

Finance Minister Shaykh 'Ali Khalifa al-'Adhbi al-Sabah delivered a brief message from Jabir saying the amir "appreciates the brave stance of the Government of Japan and the Japanese people," a Foreign Ministry official said.

Finance Minister al-Sabah said in the 20-minute meeting he was grateful for Japan's offer of support despite the mounting pressure from Iraq over Japanese hostages, the official said.

Kaifu told al-Sabah that Japan supports the United Nations resolution calling on Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait, and the return of Jabir as ruler. "Japan will do its utmost to help return peace and stability to the Persian Gulf," Kaifu was quoted as saying.

He pledged [illegible] rigorously apply U.N. economic sanctions, despite Japan's 70 percent dependence on Middle East oil, the official said. Before Iraq's August 2 invasion, Japan obtained 12 percent of its oil from Iraq and Kuwait.

Kaifu said he thought the dispute should be resolved peacefully.

Al-Sabah is in Japan until Wednesday, to thank Japan for its role in resolving the month-old Persian Gulf crisis.

Kaifu Confirms Mideast Visit

OW0409143490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1357 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will go ahead with plans to visit the troubled Middle East in early October, despite rumors of a possible second delay of the visit due to concern over such a visit's effect on Japanese hostages, a top government spokesman said Tuesday. Kaifu has said he had "pledged to the world and host countries" that he would make the trip to the region.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto before an Upper House committee Tuesday that the government has no intentions of delaying the trip again. [sentence as received] Sakamoto also said that the first delay was prompted by worry that presenting Japan's original peacetime aid plan in August, right after the Iraqi invasion, might raise doubts about Japanese commitment to the region. Government sources had earlier said fears of provoking a backlash against some 140 Japanese detained in Iraq might put off the visit for a second time.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama pledged an October visit by Kaifu during his August swing through the region in the prime minister's stead.

Officials are expected to finalize additional economic aid package for Mideast nations suffering from the international ban on trade with Iraq by month's end, in time for Kaifu's visit.

PRC Asks Trade Center Plan in Loan Package

OW3108150590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1430 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 31 KYODO—China has unofficially asked Japan to include the development of a huge trading center in Shanghai on the list of projects to be financed by Japan's third loan package to the nation, Japan-China trade sources said Friday.

The trading center slated for development in Pudong, a 350-square-kilometer estuary facing the Chang Jiang (Yangtze) River, beginning next year, will be China's biggest project of its kind as it enters the 21st century, the sources said.

The 810 billion yen loan package to be parceled out to China between 1990-1995 will be used to fund 42 projects approved by the Japanese Government. The loan package had been frozen after the 1989 June incident at the Tiananmen Square. Japan has decided to resume it, but the implementation of specific projects remains to be finalized.

"It will be impossible to either increase the number of projects to be financed by the loan package or the amount of the loan itself," Foreign Ministry officials said.

But a number of Japan-China analysts believe that political considerations, stemming from strong interest by Japanese firms in taking part in Shanghai's revitalization as an international trading center, will persuade the government to change its mind. By constructing large-scale berths, airports, and industrial housing complexes, China hopes to transform the area into the biggest trading base in the Western Pacific.

The Chinese Central Government will include the first phase of the project, to be concluded in 1985, in its Eighth Five-Year Plan and will earmark loans and investments totaling about 6.5 billion yuan or approximately 200 billion yen for the prodigious undertaking, the sources said. However, aside from the 6.5 billion yuan loan, the government will need over 40 billion yuan to complete the project, they said.

Besides asking the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for financial assistance, the municipal government of Shanghai intends to issue bonds offered through private placement to raise an additional 10 billion yuan to fund the project, they said. However, the Chinese side is pinning its hopes on Japan to cover much of the cost of the Pudong development project.

Chinese Premier Li Peng's remarks suggesting that the development of Pudong takes precedence above all other development projects have convinced many analysts that a formal request by the government is just a matter of time.

Soviet Delays in Payments Reportedly Increasing

OW3108190990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1432 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 31 KYODO—Delays in Soviet payments for imports from Japan, which tended to taper off for a time, are worsening again, trade sources said Friday.

The Japan Association for Trade With the Soviet Union and Socialist Countries in Europe said delays in Soviet payments for imports from Japan totaled 518 million U.S. dollars as of the end of July, up 16.1 percent from 446 million dollars the month before.

Japanese trading giants, which account for the majority of the delayed payments, wish to refrain from trading with the Soviet Union for fear that such delayed payments might increase further, the sources said. The trading firms, however, fear that the goodwill they have established in trade with the Soviet Union may be eaten away by other trading firms, if they hold back from dealing with Soviet trading partners, the sources said.

The association said [word indistinct] prompt [word indistinct] import, the Soviet Industrial Raw Materials Export and Import Corp., led in import payments delays with 207 million dollars as of July 31, compared with 169 million dollars the month before.

The Soviet Chemicals Export and Import Corp. was second with 153 million dollars, up slightly from 151 million dollars the month before.

Delays in Soviet payments for imports had built up since they surfaced last yearend. However, shortly after West Germany's extension of a 5 billion mark emergency loan to the Soviet Union, the office of the Soviet trade representative in Japan said a substantial portion of the delayed payments would be paid by the end of July.

Japanese trading firms thus believed that the problem of payments delays would be settled soon. When the Soviet division chief of a major Japanese trading company asked Soviet Government officials about the payments in mid-August in Moscow, however, the officials replied only that every effort would be made to solve the problem by the end of the year, the sources said.

Gorbachev's Remarks on Territorial Dispute Noted

OW0109060990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0601 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Tokyo, Sept. 1 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Saturday welcomed Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's indication that he is ready to discuss a territorial dispute with Japan when he visits Tokyo next spring. Kaifu said he thinks Japan-Soviet relations are heading in the right direction.

Speaking to reporters at his official residence, the prime minister said Japan remains unchanged in its call for the return of four islands off Hokkaido occupied by the Soviet Union since the end of World War II. [passage omitted]

Japan's Foreign Ministry also hailed Gorbachev's remarks as an expression of the Soviet leader's strong determination to improve Tokyo-Moscow ties. Ministry sources said, however, that it would be hasty to interpret Gorbachev's comments as a suggestion of changes in Soviet policies on the territorial issue.

The sources said, nonetheless, that there is a strong possibility that Gorbachev will put forth new policies toward Japan, including a fresh approach to the territorial problem, when he visits Japan next year.

Kaifu, Nakayama at Northern Territories Rally

OW0309100390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0924 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and other members of his cabinet joined Monday in calling for the return of Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido at a rally sponsored by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Held on the eve of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevarnadze's visit to Tokyo, the fourth annual rally was the first to be attended by both the prime minister and foreign minister.

Kaifu offered a downbeat assessment of the situation to some 1,200 supporters who filled the three-tiered hall, calling it "an exaggeration to say that the bud (of a solution) is about to spring forth." Kaifu said he did not share the "optimistic view" of Soviet-Japanese relations as noted in past messages from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. But he asked for the Soviet leader's cooperation in "making it so we can say the same."

The Soviet Union "cannot put the northern territories to the side," in its search for improved Japanese and Soviet ties, the prime minister said.

But Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama both agreed that the end of the Cold War in Europe and the signing of a West German-Soviet accord might help end the standoff over the issue in Asia.

The Habomai, Etorofu, Shikotan and Kunashiri islands were captured by the Soviet Union soon after Japan surrendered to the allied powers in World War II.

Other rally speakers stressed that international support for Japan's stance was exhibited at the Houston Summit of Industrialized Nations, and also said U.S. world maps back Japan's claim by referring to the islands as "occupied by U.S.S.R."

Soviet Asian Security Proposal To Be Discussed

OW0109142490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1402 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 1 (KYODO)—Japan will respond positively to a Soviet proposal on Asian security in the upcoming bilateral foreign ministers' meeting in Tokyo, foreign ministry sources said Saturday.

The Soviet Union is expected to propose to Japan again the organization of an Asian version of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the reduction of naval forces in the Asia-Pacific region, and confidence-building measures in the meetings between Japanese and Soviet foreign ministers Taro Nakayama and Eduard Shevardnadze from Tuesday to Friday next week.

Japan has rejected the Soviet security initiatives so far partly because the CSCE's Asian version is apparently aimed at fixing national boundaries in Asia, the sources said. Confidence between the two countries can be built if Moscow stops the "illegal occupation" of islands off Hokkaido the Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II, the sources said.

In the Tokyo meeting, Shevardnadze is expected to propose confidence-building methods such as advance notice and reciprocal inspection of military exercises, exchanges among high-ranking military officers, and conclusion of an accord to prevent accidental occurrences.

Ministry officials believe these proposals will become one of the key issues at the coming foreign ministers' meeting in light of detente between the United States and the Soviet Union and they are going to take up the proposals if moved by Shevardnadze, the sources said.

In the meeting, the officials will try to discuss the possibility of setting up regular consultations on security and find possible ways to promote military and political dialogue and personnel exchanges, the sources said. The sources said, however, that Japan will oppose an Asian version of the CSCE which does not give deep consideration to the variety of situations in Asia, such as that on the Korean peninsula and in Cambodia.

The Japanese side will also oppose confidence-building without a solution to the Japan-Soviet territorial issue, the sources said. Japan has insisted that progress on the territorial problem will be the greatest way of building confidence with the Soviet Union.

DA To Delete Reference to Soviet 'Threat'

OW0209095890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0856 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 2 (KYODO)—The Defense Agency [DA] will delete reference to a Soviet Far East Forces threat to Japan in a white paper to be published in mid-September, at the request of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Defense Agency sources said Sunday.

The agency originally planned to reaffirm in its 1990 defense white paper that Soviet forces in the Far East pose a potential threat to Japan while explaining that the Soviet Union's potential to invade other countries has been diminishing and that it has many aging warships, the sources said. However, Kaifu instructed the agency to compile a white paper that would reflect a relaxation of international tensions, the sources said.

The deletion of the reference by the agency is also a message to the Soviet Union for an improvement in bilateral relations at a time when Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze is due to visit Japan on Tuesday, government sources said.

The agency's basic perception of the Soviet forces in the Far East has not changed, but the agency is not about to insist on a retention of the original expression, the agency sources said. This year's white paper on defense will state that a large military force remains in the Soviet Far East, the sources said.

Last year's white paper on defense said about a quarter to one-third of Soviet military forces are stationed in the Far East and that some 60 percent of all Soviet troops and fighter aircraft in the Soviet Far East are stationed near the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido, presenting a potential threat to Japan and contributing to military tensions in the region.

Economic Aid Package for Shevardnadze Prepared

OW0309125190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1222 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 3 KYODO—The Japanese Government on Monday put the finishing touches to an "intellectual cooperation" package for the Soviet Union ahead of the arrival here Tuesday of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Government sources said the package, which is designed to lend support to moves toward perestroyka, includes the dispatch of financial experts to Moscow to help the Soviets overhaul their banking system and to establish a commodities exchange market.

They said the Japanese Government also intends to invite the managers of Soviet enterprises to Japan to study Japanese management practices and bring Soviet technical personnel to study production technology and quality control methods, the sources said. Also invited to Japan would be members of a task force of economists charged with charting the Soviet Union's transition to a market economy. The members would consult with officials of the Economic Planning Agency and other government agencies, the sources said.

The package envisions the holding of Soviet trade fairs in Japan and vice-versa, the sources added.

Last August, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) asked for 235 million yen in its budget proposal for fiscal 1991, starting next April, for support for perestroyka reforms in the Soviet Union. Adding to the total, the Foreign Ministry asked for 150 million yen for the same purpose.

A top Foreign Ministry official on Monday denied that Japan's new willingness to actively support Soviet reforms signals a change in policy. Japan, he said, continues to link the expansion of economic cooperation with Moscow to progress in resolving a bilateral dispute over a group of islands off Hokkaido that were seized by the Soviets at the end of World War II.

During last July's Houston economic summit of seven leading industrialized nations, Japan teamed up with the U.S. in rejecting a West German-French-Italian initiative for a 15-billion dollar package of financial aid for Moscow to facilitate perestroyka reforms.

Japan cited its territorial dispute, while the U.S. pointed to Moscow's high military expenditures, its 5-billion-dollar-a-year economic and military assistance to Cuba, and uncertainties about its shift toward a market economy.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said in July that aid to the Soviets "would be no more than money thrown down the drain." Instead, he stressed the need to "inculcate the leaders of the Soviet Union with the know-how of market economics."

The Soviet Union is looking to free-market mechanisms as a way of salvaging its beleaguered economy and integrating it with the more successful economies of the noncommunist world. While doing so, it is also seeking to increase its export potential, decentralize, enhance management skills, and diversify its forms of economic cooperation through such means as the creation of special economic zones.

In promoting the development of export-oriented manufacturing industries, Moscow is attempting to set the conditions for an influx of foreign capital, technology and know-how.

The Soviets are especially interested in attracting Japanese firms to the Soviet Far East to engage in joint ventures, thus helping to integrate the littoral provinces into the vibrant economy of the Asia-Pacific region.

Despite the abundant supply of raw materials the Soviet Union can provide, Japanese businesses have been hesitant to respond, citing the inconvertibility of the ruble, the poor infrastructure, the labor shortage, and the difficulty in procuring a stable supply of materials for production.

The Soviets say they are hampered by the lack of enthusiasm of the Japanese Government and export controls on Japan's high-technology equipment.

Shevardnadze Arrives in Tokyo for Talks

OW0409094890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0935 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 4 KYODO—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in Japan Tuesday for talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and his counterpart Taro Nakayama on the Middle East crisis, Asia-Pacific security and bilateral issues, in order to pave the way for a visit by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev next year.

During a four-day stay here, Shevardnadze will have three rounds of talks with Nakayama on Wednesday and Thursday, meet Prime Minister Kaifu on Thursday, and deliver a speech at a Tokyo hotel the same day.

On Friday, he is scheduled to meet Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko and later meet the press at the Japan National Press Club.

The two countries will issue a joint press release on the outcome of the Tokyo talks the same day.

Authorities Deport Soviet Soldier Stowaway

OW0409164090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1343 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Yokohama, Sept. 4 KYODO—Japanese authorities on Tuesday sent back to the Soviet Union an 18-year-old Soviet soldier who was arrested on charges of entering Japan illegally after stowing away on a Soviet ship from Nakhodka last month.

Police in Yokohama said the soldier ran away from a military base in Irkutsk on August 16 and traveled by train to the Soviet Far Eastern port city of Nakhodka, where he illegally boarded a Soviet passenger ship bound for Yokohama.

Police said they arrested the soldier shortly after he landed on Yokohama on August 20. The soldier, whose name was withheld by police, was sent back to the Soviet Union from Narita Airport Tuesday.

Police quoted the soldier as saying that he was drafted into the army this spring and became dissatisfied with military life because he had not been paid. He reportedly said he had wanted to work in a "free country" but decided to surrender to police after deciding that he could not live in Japan without knowing the Japanese language.

Police in Yokohama said Japanese authorities had established that the soldier had no intention to defect or to seek political asylum.

Spokesman Hails UN Plan for Cambodian Peace

OW3108131890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1301 GMT 31 aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 31 KYODO—Japan on Friday hailed as a "big step forward" an agreement on a plan for a comprehensive Cambodian peace settlement that was reached by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday after eight months of negotiations.

"This agreed document ... is a big step forward, paving the way to the earliest comprehensive solution of the Cambodian problem," said a government statement read to reporters by Foreign Ministry Spokesman Taizo Watanabe. The United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France, and China concluded the document following their sixth meeting this year on Cambodia, which was held in New York on Monday and Tuesday.

The U.N. document provides a framework in which to address a wide range of issues related to post-ceasefire transitional arrangements leading up to the holding of free and fair elections under U.N. auspices. It calls for a huge U.N. role in verifying the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops, monitoring a ceasefire, supervising disarmament, guaranteeing human rights, and administering Cambodia during the preelection period.

The agreement urges the swift establishment of a supreme national council (SNC), but leaves the question of the composition of the interim body to be worked out by the Cambodian parties themselves. "Japan strongly hopes that the Cambodian parties, accepting the perm-5 agreement, will establish the SNC as soon as possible," the Japanese statement said.

Further on New Air Route Agreement With ROK

OW3008151990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1452 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 30 KYODO—Japan and South Korea reached accord Thursday to inaugurate three new air routes and increase flights between the two nations at the end of three-day civil aviation talks in Cheju Island, southern Korea, Japanese officials said.

Hiroshima-Seoul, Okayama-Seoul, and Fukuoka-Cheju are the flight routes to be newly opened under the agreement, the officials said. Asiana Airlines and Korean Air are among the South Korean airlines planning to serve the three new routes.

As for Japanese airlines, Japan Airlines Co. and All Nippon Airways Co. are interested in the new direct passenger flights between Hiroshima and Seoul using Boeing 767 jets, the officials said.

Under the latest accord, the first new flight may start as early as January, they said. The routes on which both countries' airlines are allowed to increase the number of their weekly flights will link Japanese cities of Sapporo, Sendai, Niigata, Nagoya and Fukuoka with South Korea's Seoul and Pusan.

The two countries also agreed to begin using larger planes on the route linking Narita with Seoul, Pusan and Cheju, the officials added.

Extremists Suspected in 31 Aug Bombing Incident

OW3108084590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0744 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Osaka, Aug. 31 KYODO—A bombing here Friday triggered a forest fire near a lot used to supply sand for the construction of the controversial Kansai International Airport, and police said they suspect extremists were responsible.

The blaze broke out following two blasts just before 6 A.M., igniting some five hectares of forests on a nearby slope. No injuries were reported at the site in the southern Sennan District of Osaka Prefecture.

A man calling himself a member of the left-wing extremist group Chukakuha telephoned a construction office for the new airport in Kishiwada minutes after the blasts, claiming responsibility for the bombing, police said.

Police located several metal fragments and a narrow, winged projectile on the site and also found a launching device made of steel pipe in woods 1.5 kilometers away. Police said the fragments were similar to those found after a projectile hit the Imperial Palace grounds in Kyoto in January, an attack also linked to the Chukakuha.

The group has been linked to 14 of 17 such incidents since 1980 protesting the construction of the seaside airport, including three attacks this year. Work at the site, which employs 200 to 250 workers during peak hours, was not affected by the bombing and transportation of the sand for reclamation of the offshore airport site continued.

Energy Industries Disagree Over IPCC Report

OW3108144590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1316 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 31 KYODO—Japanese energy industries disagreed over how to treat a final report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released Friday, with electric utilities approving while oil companies demurred.

An official at Tokyo Electric Power Co. said power companies should be prepared for a long-term commitment to solving the problem of global warming.

"In this regard, it is especially important for industrial countries to help developing countries, and that would be in our best interests too," he said. But the official displayed some skepticism over the taxes or surcharges imposed on carbon dioxide emissions proposed by some countries. "Such proposals should be considered very cautiously," he said.

On the other hand, oil companies made it clear that they refuse to regard the report as the final verdict. A spokesman of Nippon Oil Co. said, "more scientific research is necessary before we are convinced that carbon dioxide is really the cause of the global warming."

"Any rash decision on the matter should be avoided," he added.

Broadcast Satellite Said 'Limping Along'

OW3108151090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1454 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Tokyo, Aug. 31 KYODO—The newly launched Japanese broadcasting satellite "Yuri-3A," apparently hampered by a faulty solar power panel, is limping along at three-quarters power, the National Space Development Agency said Friday.

Agency officials suspect that an electrical circuit on one of the panels developed by General Electric Co. of the United States may be impaired, resulting in a loss of power that may make it difficult for the satellite to be fully functional.

The satellite, which was launched Tuesday from the agency's Tanegashima Space Center, was jointly developed by Japan's NEC Corp. and General Electric and was to broadcast three channels beginning in November from a geostationary orbit 36,000 kilometers above the equator over Indonesia.

Officials said the loss of power from a planned 1.4 kilowatts to 1.1 kilowatts may make it difficult to broadcast all three channels for an extended period of time. They are considering how the loss of power will affect satellite broadcasts on two channels for Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) and a pay-television channel, Japan Satellite Broadcasting (JSB), scheduled to begin service next April.

A digital radio service, also scheduled to initiate service in April with a sound quality approaching that of compact discs, is also expected to be affected by the power loss.

Agency officials said one kilowatt of energy was enough to power three channels for a limited length of time, but added that the original expected useful life of seven years may now be impossible.

The satellite was launched to replace the aging Yuri-2B which has been beaming signals for NHK's two channels since 1986 but which is expected to end its useful life early next year.

North Korea

Reportage on N-S High-Level Talks in Seoul

Delegation Departs for South

SK0309044590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] On the morning of 3 September, the North side's delegation to the North-South High-Level Talks led by Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council, left Pyongyang by train for Seoul to participate in the first round of North-South High-Level Talks.

A portrait of the great leader of our party and people Comrade Kim Il-song was placed in the center of Pyongyang Station. Also placed there were slogans reading, "Hail to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song," and "Hail to the glorious Workers' Party of Korea."

Slogans reading, "Let us vigorously struggle to fulfill the five- point principle of the reunification of the fatherland," and "Let us enhance the nineties as a decade for reunification," and large pictures showing our people's ardent desire for reunification were placed in various areas of the station. Also, scores of flags of the Republic were fluttering at the station.

To send off our delegation, which is to participate in the North-South High-Level Talks, hundreds of workers from various classes in Pyongyang were at the station holding the flags of the Republic and bunches of flowers.

[Recording of music and applause begins while reporter continues to speak] At 0830, members of the delegation Kim Kwang-chin, general of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; spokesman of our side's delegation An Pyong-su, director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF]; Paek Nam- chun, chief of the Councillors' Office of the State Administration Council; Kim Chong-u, vice-minister of external economic affairs; Choe U-chin, roving ambassador of foreign affairs; and Kim Yong-chol, major general of the KPA arrived at the station, led by the head of the delegation Comrade Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council. The suite members of the delegation and reporters also arrived along with them.

Children and women workers embraced them with bunches of flowers.

The faces of the people sending off the delegation shouting the slogans, "Reunification of the fatherland," and "Korea is one," were overflowing with the ardent desire and firm conviction that the delegation would contribute to bringing an end to the division of the nation, which was forced upon us by the Japanese imperialists and to achieving an independent, self-reliant, and peaceful reunification of the fatherland in the nineties without fail.

Comrade Pak Song-chol, DPRK vice president; Yun Ki-pok, vice chairman of the CPRF; Choe Mun-son, chairman of the Pyongyang People's Committee; and other functionaries concerned were on hand to see off the delegation.

As the train started to move the people shouted, "Hail to the reunified Korean people," and vigorously sang the song, "Korea Is One," warmly sending off the delegation. [end recording]

Talks To Serve Reunification

SK0409043490 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0007 GMT 4 Sep 90

[NODONG SINMUN 4 September Special Article: "North-South Dialogue Must Be a Dialogue for Reunification"]

[Text] North-South High-Level Talks will be held in Seoul, beginning tomorrow. The North-South High-Level Talks will discuss all issues which arise in North-South relations, including the issue on removing the political and military confrontation and realizing multilateral cooperation and exchange between the North and the South. They will also discuss measures regarding the United Nations within the framework of the agenda of the talks.

All compatriots in the North, the South, and overseas unanimously want not only the North-South high-level talks to bear good results and thus, to open a new situation on the road toward national reunification, but also the nineties to be glorified as a historic era of national reunification.

In his historic policy speech at the first session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught: Dialogue should be developed for national reunification.

The country's reunification should be achieved independently and peacefully without fail through dialogue and negotiations between the North and the South. The only way to solve the reunification question of the country independently and peacefully is by pooling the will of the entire nation and by reflecting the ardent desire of fellow countrymen for reunification and their patriotic will is to develop dialogue. Success in dialogue rests with the stand and attitude of both sides of the North and the South toward dialogue. In other words, the problem is whether dialogue is conducted to actually reunify the divided country or it is aimed at freezing the present state and perpetuating division.

North-South dialogue is a dialogue between both sides for all intents and purposes. Therefore, North-South dialogue cannot attain success only through the efforts of one side but can bear outstanding fruition only when both sides make joint efforts in a sincere manner. This is a lesson that the entire course of North-South dialogue for nearly the past 20 years has taught.

Dialogue between the North and the South should not be the dialogue to continue national division but should be the dialogue for reunification, that is to say, the dialogue which contributes to the country's peace and reunification and to the common interests of the nation. For this end, dialogue should be conducted based on the principle of independence, peaceful reunification, and great national unity, as elucidated in the 4 July North-South joint statement.

Such dialogue for furthering confrontation and distrust between the North and the South or attempting to create two Koreas should be rejected. Such a dialogue which is utilized in legalizing the country's division is not necessary. It is very harmful to reunification and will only result in bestowing disappointment upon the fellow countrymen who are burning with the desire for reunification. Therefore, we should never allow dialogue to be utilized as an expedient to fix and legalize division.

The North-South dialogue should not become a dialogue which represents only the will of the authorities or specific segments of people but should become an all-national dialogue which represents the will of all political parties, public organizations, and people from all walks of life. For this end, North-South dialogue should be held not only between the persons in authority of both sides, but also between broad segments of civilians.

Reunifying the country is not the task that only specific classes or segments of people or the authorities should fulfill, but is the nationwide cause that the entire nation should carry out by pooling their strength. Therefore, not only the persons in authority in the North and the South, but also the broad people from all walks of life in the North and the South should actively participate in this. To do so, it is imperative for them to meet with each other and hold dialogue conducive to national reunification.

To our regret, however, the South Korean authorities, under the pretext of establishing a unified channel of dialogue, not only have suppressed the efforts of the people from all walks of life and organizations in South Korea to hold dialogue with us, but have also meddled in and blocked their efforts. Blocking the efforts for dialogue by the people from all walks of life in a bid to contribute to achieving national reunification, instead of actively encouraging and assisting these efforts, cannot be construed as a just and proper act of those who want reunification.

Developing civilian-level dialogues among the people from all walks of life in the North and the South in a multilateral way does not create a split or confusion, but constitutes an outstanding way to promote national unity and reunification. When the divided fellow countrymen meet with each other and hold dialogue, they can not only understand their opinions and pool their will into one easily, but also can turn the atmosphere of confrontation into the atmosphere of unity and can easily solve even the issues which cannot be solved between the authorities.

According to our active initiatives, the preliminary talks for the North-South High-Level Talks which were held on eight occasions experienced various twists and turns but the nation's desire and the trend of the times for dialogue, detente, and reunification cannot be prevented in any way. Also, this teaches us a lesson, that if both sides of dialogue hold the talks with a sincere attitude of truly working to resolve issues, there is no issue that cannot be resolved through negotiations between the North and South.

The North and South must make the most of this lesson so that both in name and reality the North-South High-Level Talks will achieve results in bringing an end to confrontation in accordance with the national desire for reunification and actually opening the phase of a turning point in the nation's peace and peaceful reunification.

To achieve this, the political and military confrontation between the North and South which will be discussed in the talks must be dissolved and the issue of achieving multi-faceted cooperation and exchange or discussing the matter of dealing with the issue of the United Nations within this frame must be sincerely resolved so that it can be advantageous to the reunification of the fatherland.

Therefore, the North and South must bring an end to the division which was forced upon by outside forces in whatever way and must without fail vigorously achieve an independent reunified fatherland on this land during the nineties.

From this position we embodied the five-point principle for the reunification of the fatherland which was elucidated by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his historic policy speech, and in the latter part of May put forth an arms reduction proposal for peace on the Korean peninsula; in July the suspended dialogues were actively resumed; and as a measure to successfully guarantee contacts and visits between the North and South, a proposal was also made to open up our side of Panmunjom.

When speaking about the prospects for the North-South High-Level Talks, we can say that the attitude and position of the authorities of the South side will be wholly dependent on how the talks will be approached.

If the North and South hold the talks with the common position and attitude of making one Korea by reunifying the country, agreements can be reached easily in the process of discussing the issues and a practical method for reunification can be found.

On the other hand, if the South side continues to cling to the strategy for two Koreas during the talks, the anticipated results cannot be achieved in the dialogue.

The South side must hold the talks with a sincere attitude of practically resolving the issue of reunification and must no longer cloud up the atmosphere for dialogue or create an artificial barrier.

Since the South Korean authorities agreed with us to hold the North-South High-Level Talks, a series of gestures by the South Korean authorities allowed us to take a look at their attitude and position for the talks.

Even though the South Korean authorities agreed with us to discuss the matter of dealing with the issue of the United Nations during the North-South High-Level Talks, the South Korean authorities are taking the issue of entering the United Nations outside.

Also, an authority concerned of South Korea said that the North-South High-Level Talks is very important in recognizing each other's entity and in establishing the system for a peaceful coexistence. Therefore, this hinted that the talks were to be regarded as a talk for division, adhering to the nation's division, and perpetuating division for two Koreas.

According to the Japanese paper YOMIURI SHIMBUN, just several days before the North-South High-Level Talks, the U.S. and South Korean authorities clearly stated that they would carry out the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises next year again. This had all at once brought various channels for North-South dialogue into a deadlock.

How can the North-South dialogue be a dialogue for reunification and develop dialogue for the reunification of the fatherland? This makes us doubt without fail the real intention of the South side, which says it hopes to achieve the nation's reunification and makes us worry about the future of the North-South dialogue.

The South Korean authorities must carry out the dialogue with the position and attitude of truly reunifying the fatherland; must not carry out acts of making our country's situation tense; and must not suppress the South Korean people's struggle to achieve a social democracy.

The consistent position of our party and the government of the Republic is to develop the North-South dialogue so that a breakthrough can be made in reunification and peacefully resolve the issue of reunification through dialogue and negotiations.

We will actively carry out efforts to achieve good results in the North-South dialogue including the North-South High-Level Talks and develop dialogue for the reunification of the fatherland in various forms.

Daily on Need To Ease Tension

SK0409035290 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0020 GMT 4 Sep 90

[NODONG SINMUN 4 September commentary: "Military Tension Must Be Alleviated"]

[Text] At a time when the entire nation's ardent desire to hasten the reunification of the country is growing daily, our side's delegation to the North-South High-Level Talks will go to Seoul today, and the talks will open tomorrow. All fellow countrymen sincerely hope that the North-South High-Level Talks will become fruitful dialogue which will open an epochal phase of peace in the country and her peaceful reunification by satisfactorily discussing and solving urgent pending problems.

Bringing an end to prevailing acute military confrontation is the most important problem in maintaining peace on the Korean peninsula and hastening the peaceful the reunification of the country. In achieving peace in the country and her peaceful reunification, nothing is more important and urgent than bringing an end to acute military confrontation between the North and South. This is because bringing an end to acute military confrontation and alleviating tension is the most urgent and key issue for removing misunderstanding and mistrust between the North and South, promoting mutual understanding and trust, improving North-South relations, and achieving the peaceful the reunification of the country.

Resolving military issues, first of all, in the North-South High- Level Talks is the demand of the situation on the Korean peninsula, the earnest desire of the nation, and the demand of the era. When we look back, from a noble desire for peace and reunification, our party and the government of the Republic have consistently demanded that the issue of alleviating tension be resolved first in North- South dialogue and have repeatedly taken epochal measures toward this end. This year alone, at the start of the year, we advanced the epochal proposal for destroying the concrete wall, which was built on the southern part of the military demarcation line, and realizing North-South free travel and total opening up. Also, following this, we advanced the five-point proposal for the reunification of the fatherland and the arms reduction proposal for peace on the Korean peninsula.

In an effort to achieve a breakthrough in practical arms reduction on the Korean peninsula, we mobilized approximately 150,000 Korean People's Army soldiers from the front line and guardposts in peaceful construction in 1986. Following this, the next year, we again took the epochal measure of unilaterally reducing 100,000 troops and sending them to socialist construction sites, and took such practical measures as the suspension of large- scale military exercises.

If the United States and persons in authority in South Korea had accepted any of our just peace initiatives and had positively responded to our measures, the situation on the Korean peninsula would have, no doubt, been alleviated, and a new phase in peaceful reunification would have opened.

But the United States and the persons in authority in South Korea have not accepted any of our initiatives and efforts for peace and peaceful reunification and have turned a blind eye to them. Instead, they have responded to our initiatives and efforts by expanding their armaments, building up their forces, and endlessly conducting such nuclear war exercises as the "Team Spirit" exercise under the pretext of nonexistent threats of southward invasion.

If the problem of alleviating military tension is not solved, our fellow countrymen will not be able to be reconciled with each other forever and will, in the long run, not be able to avoid suffering a nuclear catastrophe by turning the Korean peninsula into a site for the foreign forces' nuclear war. Facts clearly show that first solving such fundamental problems as the problem of bringing an end to military confrontation is an urgent problem that can no longer be delayed. They also show that efforts by one side alone cannot remove the danger of war from the Korean peninsula or alleviate tension.

In order to alleviate tension and to guarantee peace, the North and South must adopt a nonaggression declaration; the DPRK and the United States must sign a peace agreement; the North and South must reduce their forces on a large scale; and nuclear weapons and foreign troops must be withdrawn from South Korea. Because the persons in authority in South Korea have in recent years expressed their willingness, in the United Nations and on other occasions, to discuss arms reduction and nonaggression declaration with us, there is no reason or condition for them and us not to adopt a nonaggression declaration, gradually reduce the forces of the North and South, or take the measure of promoting a peaceful environment.

Complete and genuine peace on the Korean peninsula cannot be guaranteed merely by the reduction of the forces of the North and South. It can only be totally guaranteed when foreign troops and nuclear weapons are withdrawn. Because the United States is a major concerned party in guaranteeing peace in our country, it must come, without fail, to the DPRK-U.S. talks or tripartite talks for signing a peace agreement and must withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea. The fact that the United States maintains approximately 40,000 troops and approximately 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea against us, who has not even a single foreign troop or nuclear weapon, is abnormal to anyone.

If the problem of alleviating tension is satisfactorily solved in the North-South High-Level Talks, the danger of a new war, a nuclear war, will be removed; the Korean peninsula will turn into a nuclear-free, peace zone; and the North and South will bring an end to antagonism and confrontation and open the new chapter of trust and unity. Then, a breakthrough in peace and peaceful reunification, the earnest desire of the nation, will be achieved.

North Spokesman Makes Statement

SK0409042690 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0156 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] The North side's delegation and its entourage which left Kaesong this morning to participate the first round of the North-South High-Level Talks have entered the South side's area by passing through Panmunjom.

Today, numerous working people, youths, and students of Kaesong, a city adjacent to the demarcation line, turned out on the streets early in the morning with the flags of the Republic and bouquets of flowers in their hands and warmly saw off our delegation which goes to Seoul by surmounting the barrier of division.

When the cars carrying the delegation and its entourage were nearing Tongil Street, the crowd shouted even more strongly the slogan "Fatherland's reunification" and "Fatherland's reunification." They sang the songs "Korea Is One" and "Our Wish Is Reunification," scattering confetti.

Cute children rushed out and gave the bouquets of flowers to the members of the delegation.

After being seen off by the working people of Kaesong, our delegation and its entourage arrived at Tongilgak in our side's area in Panmunjom.

To see off our delegation, Chon Kum-chol, vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF]; Kim Ki-son, chairman of the Kaesong Municipal People's Committee; Han Kwang-im, chairman of the Kaesong Administrative and Economic Guidance Committee, and responsible functionaries of the organs of the party and power and of the working organizations, commanding officials of the People's Army units around Kaesong, and functionaries of the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] also arrived.

At 1000 in the morning, the delegation led by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK Administration Council, and composed of delegates Kim Kwang-chin, general of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; An Pyong-su, director of the Secretariat of the CPRF; Paek Nam-chun, chief of the Councillors' Office of the State Administration Council; Kim Chong-u, vice minister of external economic affairs; Choe U-chin, roving ambassador of the Foreign Ministry; and Kim Yong-chol, major general of the KPA; and its suite members and the press corps entered the South side's area by crossing through Panmunjom, escorted by the South side's concerned officials of the talks.

An Pyong-su, spokesman for the North side's delegation to the high-level North-South talks, issued a statement in connection with the delegation's passage through the demarcation line and its entry into the South side's area.

In the statement, he, in the name of the North side's delegation to the North-South High-Level Talks, first expressed gratitude to the concerned officials in the talks from the South side who had come to Panmunjom to receive our delegation. Setting foot on the soil of the South, he conveyed greetings of warm kinship which the people of the northern half of the Republic send to the South's compatriots of the same blood.

The statement noted that our delegation crossed the demarcation line and witnessed the grim reality that Panmunjom, which is certainly the soil of our country, has turned into a tragic soil symbolic of mistrust, antagonism, and confrontation, and heartwarmingly recalls the young envoy of reunification who traversed precisely the same path last year, waving the hand of sad parting and saying that we would meet again in the reunified fatherland.

Saying that Panmunjom should become a symbol of the fatherland's reunification, not the symbol of the national division, the statement went on to stress: Now our delegation leaves for Seoul with a single mind to end the confrontation between the North and South and to accelerate the future in which peace would come everywhere in the fatherland and in which the dawn of reunification would open magnificently. The path we traverse is one to rejoin the severed blood lineage of the nation and one which is linked with reunification ardently desired by 70 million compatriots. With the South side, we will sincerely discuss the political and military issues faced by the North-South High-Level Talks, and other pending issues to be settled by the two sides. By so doing, we will provide favorable conditions for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and, instead of this narrow one-way path in Panmunjom, will pave a broad path of reunification; one through which anyone can come and go anywhere along the 600-ri demarcation line.

Further on Statement

SK0409051690 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0317 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The North side's delegation, who left Kaesong this morning to attend the first North-South High-Level Talks, entered the southern area in Panmunjom. [passage omitted]

In connection with the fact that the North side's delegation to the North-South High-Level Talks entered the southern side of the demarcation line, An Pyong-su, the spokesman for the North side's delegation, released a statement.

[Begin An recording] The North side's delegation to the North-South High-Level Talks has just arrived at the South side's area after crossing the military demarcation line. Our delegation, first of all, expresses our thanks to various members of the South side's delegation, including Mr. Hong Song-chol, and reporters from home and abroad who have come to Panmunjom to receive us. Also, on this occasion as we set foot on the southern side for the first time, I extend greetings filled with warm brotherly love from all the people on the northern half of the Republic to the brothers and sisters in the South who are of the same blood as ours.

While crossing the demarcation line and witnessing grim reality in which Panmunjom, which surely is part of our country and land, has turned into a tragic place symbolic of mistrust, antagonism, and confrontation, we heartwarmingly recall a young messenger of reunification who, while waving a farewell and saying that we will meet again in a single fatherland, walked this way last year. Panmunjom should not serve as a symbol of national division but that of the reunification of the fatherland.

Our delegation will leave for Seoul, with a single desire to hasten the day when an end will be brought to North-South confrontation, when peace is promoted everywhere in the fatherland, and when the brilliant day of reunification will break. The path we are treading will connect the severed blood ties and will lead to reunification, for which the 70 million fellow countrymen yearn.

We will sincerely discuss with the South side not only political and military problems presented at North-South High-Level Talks but also other pending problems that the two sides must solve, thus promoting an environment favorable to the independent, peaceful reunification of the country and will pave a wide road toward reunification, instead of a narrow road via Panmunjom, to ensure that anyone may freely pass anywhere along the 600-ri demarcation line.
4 September 1990, Panmunjom
Thank you. [end recording]

Afterward, the delegation left the South side's area of Panmunjom for Seoul.

Radio Reports Arrival in Seoul

SK0409091690 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0700 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Our side's delegation to participate in the North-South High-Level Talks arrived in Seoul.

Our side's delegation to participate in the first North-South High-Level Talks arrived in Seoul at 1200 today.

The delegation—led by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK Administration Council, and composed of delegates Kim Kwang-chin, general of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; An Pyong-su, spokesman of our side's delegation and director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland; Paek Nam-chun, chief of the Councillors' Office of the State Administration Council; Kim Chong-u, vice minister of external economic affairs; Choe U-chin, roving ambassador of the Foreign Ministry; and Kim Yong-chol, major general of the KPA—and its suite members came to this place.

The South side's concerned officials of the talks headed by Kang Yong-hun greeted our delegation.

The section from Munsan, out of the Joint Security Area of the military demarcation line in Panmunjom, to Seoul extending about 200-ri [80 kms] was crowded with more than one million fellow countrymen in the South, who turned out to welcome our delegation as an envoy of reunification and as kindred with whom they lived together on the same land for several thousand years.

As if they recall the joy over the historic pannational rally splendidly held in Panmunjom on 15 August amid great interest and expectations of all fellow countrymen, the fellow countrymen in the South side from residential areas and on the streets waved and clapped their hands at the motorcade carrying our delegation and suite members and stretched out one finger meaning "Korea is one." They also opened their fingers to make the V shape, the English letter to mean "victory."

As our delegation entered Seoul, the welcome of citizens from all walks of life reached its peak. A number of citizens, from old men to children, upheld two hands and expressed "hail" to reunification. Girls who appeared to be college students enthusiastically welcomed our delegation, jumping up and down.

Windows and rooftops were crowded with people welcoming our delegation; even people in moving buses waved at our delegation.

As our delegation arrived at the Inter-Continental Hotel, its lodging house, youths, students, and citizens from all walks of life clapped their hands and cheered the members of our delegation who were getting out of cars.

Reflected in each one's face were the aspirations—prompted by the visit of the envoy of reunification from the North side—for demolishing the barriers of division, realizing free travel and full-scale opening between the North and the South, and achieving national reunification without fail. They silently expressed their firm resolution to make the nineties an historic era for national reunification.

Our side's spokesman issued a statement in connection with our delegation's arrival to reporters from the North, the South, and foreign countries at the Inter-Continental Hotel, its lodging house.

In the statement, he expressed thanks to the Seoul citizens and fellow countrymen on the South side who warmly welcomed with kindred feelings our delegation and its suites and conveyed warm greetings from the people in the northern half of the Republic.

He stated that he thinks it fortunate that the North-South High-Level Talks are realized and the persons in authority in North and South can visit Pyongyang and Seoul. Although there were some vicissitudes in the course of preliminary talks, he stressed that our will for national reunification made it possible to realize the full-dress talks and to open the road between Pyongyang and Seoul.

The statement said: This road should not be closed but remain widely open to anyone. This road should not be a road for some people to travel freely and for some people to be prohibited. Our delegation came to Seoul for reconciliation and unity as the same people and to jointly open the door of reunification.

The North and the South should not be hostile to each other nor should they stand in confrontation with each other. They should not live separately like other people nor allow the division to prolong for more than a half century.

We rapidly should realize hand in hand an independent and peaceful reunified fatherland in which 70 million fellow countrymen live harmoniously and share destinies.

The statement pointed out that national reunification cannot be realized by depending on outside forces nor can it be attained by efforts of only one side, the North or the South, and by strength of the authorities.

The statement said: National reunification can be achieved only when all fellow countrymen, main force of the reunification, pool their strength and make joint efforts, transcending the differences in ideologies, religions, possession of properties and affiliations. It is important for the North and the South to promptly remove the state of political and military confrontation which is being aggravated with each passing day and actively promote reconciliation and unity in order to fling the door of reunification open at an early date. The delegates of both sides are obliged to carry out this important task.

The North side's delegation to the North-South High-Level Talks will put forward progressive proposals for peace of the country and its peaceful reunification during upcoming first talks and seek its agreement with all sincerity and efforts.

In conclusion, the statement noted that although the duration of our delegation's stay is short, availing itself of the opportunity of visiting Seoul, our delegation hopes to meet and exchange opinions with personages of various circles if they wish and visit families and relatives of those persons who visited the North and who are imprisoned for shouting for reunification, including the Rev. [Reverend] Mun Ik-hwan, woman student Yim Su-kyong, and Father Mun Kyu- hyon, and convey to them the cordial consolation of the fellow countrymen in the North.

The statement expressed the hope that the fellow countrymen and figures of all strata in the South would give encouragement to the North-South High-Level Talks so that they might be a dialogue practically conducive to peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

'Progressive' Proposals by North

SK0409050590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449 GMT 4 Sep 90

[By KCNA correspondent]

[Text] Seoul September 4—The North side's delegation headed by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council, and suite members arrived in Seoul at 12 [0300 GMT] on September 4 to participate in the first North-South High-Level Talks.

It was met by chief delegate of the South side Kang Yong-hun and other persons concerned with the talks.

The section from Munsan near Panmunjom to Seoul extending nearly 80 kilometres was crowded with a large number of fellow countrymen in the South who turned out to welcome our delegation as an envoy of reunification.

The fellow countrymen in the South waved their hands to welcome the motorcade carrying our delegation and suite members and many people shouted slogans "Reunification" and "Reunification."

The spokesman for our delegation released a statement on its arrival in Seoul at the Inter-Continental Hotel, its lodging house.

In the statement, he expressed thanks to the Seoul citizens and fellow countrymen in South Korea who warmly welcomed our delegation and its suites with kindred feelings.

Pointing out that it is important for the North and the South to promptly remove the state of political and military confrontation which is being aggravated with each passing day and actively promote reconciliation and unity in order to fling the door of reunification open at an early date, the statement noted that the delegates of both sides are obliged to carry out this important task.

The North side's delegation will put forward progressive proposals for peace of the country and its peaceful reunification at the soon-to-open first talks and seek its agreement with all sincerity and efforts, the statement noted, and continued:

Availing itself of the opportunity of visiting Seoul, our delegation hopes to meet and exchange opinions with personages of various circles if they wish and visit families and relatives of those persons who visited the North including the Rev. [Reverend] Mun Ik-hwan, woman student Yim Su-kyong and Father Mun Kyu-hyon and convey them the cordial consolation of the fellow countrymen in the North.

The statement expressed the hope that the fellow countrymen and figures of all strata in the South would give encouragement to the North-South High-Level Talks so that it might be a dialogue practically conducive to peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

President Bush's Remarks on Gulf 'Baloney'

SK0209110790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 2 (KCNA)—U.S. President Bush, speaking of the Gulf situation, claimed that the U.S. troops are "forces for peace" and the United States is "ready to repel invasion".

Commenting on his bellicose utterances, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says:

His boloney tells that the U.S. imperialists are watching for a chance to pull the trigger, fully ready to start a war in the Gulf region.

The U.S. imperialists running higher fever in their aggressive moves, not resting content with the U.S. Armed Forces they have already massed in the region, are now trying by all means to "internationalize" the armed intervention by bringing armed forces of other countries to join theirs.

They openly threaten a certain country, blustering that if the country refuses to dispatch armed forces to the region, the relations between the United States and that country will be deteriorated.

This is, indeed, an arrogant and high-handed act of the international gendarme.

If the United States eventually takes the road of undertaking a large-scale armed intervention in the Gulf, it will apparently result in endangering peace not only in this region but also in the rest of the world and unleashing another world war.

The imperialist aggression forces must be withdrawn from the Gulf region as early as possible and the dispute be solved in a peaceful way.

KCNA Reports U.S.-ROK Aerial Exercises

SK0209102890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 2 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists on August 28 brought formations of Kadena-based nuclear-capable F-16 fighter-bombers to the Osan Air Base and let them fly above Woeyon-do, Wonju, Pyongchang and Chongju in a joint air strike exercise for a surprise attack on targets in the central areas of strategic importance in the northern half of Korea in coordination with formations of F-16 fighter-bombers belonging to the U.S. Seventh Airforce present in South Korea, according to military sources.

On August 27 and 28, they hurled into South Korea by surprise formations of A-6 assault planes from their Pacific bases overseas including the Iwakuni Base in Japan to stage exercises for a surprise attack on ground targets and quick return to bases with a view to increasing the real warring capacity in the event of "contingency."

On August 29, they deployed in the Osan Air Base of U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea formations of Iwakuni-based EA-6 electronic jamming planes and A-6 assault planes.

On August 27, they set in motion a total of more than 300 F-16, F-4 and F-5 fighter-bombers of the U.S. Seventh Airforce and the puppet Airforce to whip up a war fever with frantic exercises for attack on air and ground targets to invade the North with the support of formations of A-37 assault planes in the sky above Wonju, Anmyon-do, Woeyon-do and Chungju.

The aerial war exercises staged in South Korea that day numbered 9, involving a total of more than 540 fighter-bombers, assault planes, airborne warning and control planes and reconnaissance planes.

On the same day, the South Korean puppets made F-16, F-4, F-5 and A-37 planes sortie to the sky above Tongduchon for an aerial war game to increase the support strike capacity of ground units in case of "emergency." They also staged a parachuting exercise for infiltration of "commandoes" into the depths of the northern half of Korea with C-130 and C-123 transport planes in the sky above Yangpyong and Sangju.

U.S. Antiwar Delegates Attend Pyongyang Seminar

Meet With Kim Yong-sun

SK3108119390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Pyongyang August 31 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and chairman of the Korean Anti-Nuke Peace Committee, today met and had a friendly talk with U.S. delegates on a visit to Korea to attend a seminar of Korea-U.S. anti-war, anti-nuclear organizations and community activists on peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula.

Present on the occasion was Kim Hyong-u, vice-director of a department of the C.C., the WPK and vice-chairman of the Korean Committee for Solidarity with the World People.

Visit Panmunjom

SK0109104990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Panmunjom September 1 (KCNA)—U.S. delegates who have come to Korea to participate in a seminar of Korea-U.S. anti-war, anti-nuclear organisations and community activists on peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula inspected Panmunjom on September 1. The delegates went round with keen interest the room where the armistice talks were held, the hall where the armistice agreement was signed and the conference room of the Military Armistice Commission.

Susan Bailey, member of the National Committee of the Workers World Party in the United States and chairperson of the U.S. Get Out of Korea Committee, said she has learned better through the inspection of Panmunjom that the U.S. is the very one responsible for the division of Korea.

She said, back in the United States, she would invigorate the movement of solidarity with the struggle of the Korean people in their struggle for national reunification.

Ruth Cadwallader, chairperson of the Asia-Pacific Committee of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the U.S.A., said she could hardly repress indignation at the sight of young Americans standing with rifles in their hands in an alien land as cannon fodder for a war of aggression. We denounce the acts of the warmaniacs, she said.

She held that the United States must take away its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea in the shortest time possible and the North and the South of Korea should share the same seat in the United Nations.

Cleveland Thornhill, vice-president of the U.S. Peace Council, said he had been poorly informed of the reality of Korea which still remains divided. Inspecting this place today I have learned well that the U.S. forces' occupation of South Korea is illegal.

Ben Dupuy, editor of the newspaper HAITI PROGRESS, said he will make all efforts for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from Korea and for Korean reunification.

We vehemently condemn the South Korean authorities' behavior against coed Yim Su-kyong as an act contrary to the world declaration on human rights, he added.

Clayton Ramey, member of the Executive Committee of the African People's Christian Organization, said he felt sad at the fact that the U.S. troops have been illegally occupying South Korea for 45 years and barring Korea's peaceful reunification, and resolved to vigorously struggle to have the U.S. troops withdrawn from South Korea.

Andrew Jones, associate professor of Northeastern University, stressed that the United States should be held responsible for the division of Korea as the very one who caused it and should contribute to Korean reunification.

He described as inhuman the act of the South Korean authorities in arresting and persecuting Yim Su- kyong who visited the North as a messenger of reunification and returned to South Korea through Panmunjom, he said.

The delegates shouted "U.S. Troops, Get Out of Korea!" and "Korea Is One!"

The anti-war, anti-nuke and peace champions from the United States conversed with separated families in Kaesong today.

View 'Concrete Wall'

SK0209112090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Kaesong September 2 (KCNA)—U.S. peace champions who have come to Korea to participate in the seminar of Korea-U.S. anti-war, anti-nuclear organizations and community activists on peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula took on-spot observation of the concrete wall keeping Korea divided on September 1.

Clayton Ramey, member of the Executive Committee of the African People's Christian Organization, said he could not understand why the United States has made no mention of the concrete wall in Korea, while welcoming the removal of the Berlin wall.

Noting that the concrete wall is a product of the U.S. policy of aggression, he called for its dismantlement.

He voiced full support to the proposal for the dismantlement of the concrete wall put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Aaron Moss, director of the Greenwich Village coalition affiliated with sane-treeze, said he confirmed that the concrete wall actually exists and said the purpose sought by the imperialists in building it was to keep hold on South Korea as their military base and divide Korea indefinitely.

John Catalinotto, member of the National Committee of the Workers World Party of the USA, said he saw on the spot the concrete wall built by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets in the area South of the military demarcation line to keep Korea divided forever. He stressed that if Korea is to be reunified at an early date, the U.S. troops must be withdrawn from South Korea at once.

Back home, he said, I will do all I can to give the working class and peaceloving people of the United States a correct understanding of the wall built along the military demarcation line in Korea and of the great sufferings the Korean nation is undergoing.

Seminar Opens 3 Sep

SK0309050590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0452 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 3 (KCNA)—The seminar of Korea-U.S. anti-war, anti-nuclear organisations and community activists on peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula, the first joint meeting between the Korean and U.S. peace champions, opened in Pyongyang this morning.

The current seminar co-sponsored by the Korean anti-nuclear peace committee and the U.S. Get Out of Korea Committee is intended to find the main obstacle and stumbling block in the way of peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula and have a sincere debate on the ways for removing them.

Following are the agenda of the seminar:
1. On opening a new phase for the relaxation of tensionand the reunification of Korea.
2. What can the U.S. activists do to remove the barrierto reunification.
3. On strengthening international solidarity with thenational self-determination and peaceful reunificationof the Korean people.

It is foreseen that the seminar will adopt important documents for expanding and developing international solidarity movement for peace and reunification of Korea. It will last till September 4.

Joint Declaration Issued

SK0409113390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1102 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 4 (KCNA)—The participants in the seminar of the Korea-U.S. anti-war, anti-nuclear organizations and community activists on peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula which was held in Pyongyang over September 3-4 issued a joint declaration.

The joint declaration dated September 4 said that all obstacles to exercising the right to self-determination of the Korean people which has been firmly recognized and established in international law must be removed so that the Korean people are free to determine their own future.

The declaration continued:

- We support the overwhelming desire of the Korean people—in the North and South—for the peaceful reunification of Korea.
- In the interest of world peace and reunification, the tension that exists on the Korean peninsula should be defused and a peaceful climate created.
- We support a full open-door policy between the North and the South of Korea, including the right of the Korean people to travel, contact and communicate freely between the North and South.
- The U.S., which played the decisive role in the division of Korea, should change its policy and not obstruct the desire of the Korean people for peace and reunification. The U.S. should conclude a peace treaty with the D.P.R.K.
- The United Nations should help settle the Korean question peacefully and impartially.

The declaration said in this regard:

the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and national unity have been jointly confirmed by the North and South and recognized throughout the world.

The DPRK Government put forward a proposal calling for the founding of a confederation based on these principles. We hope to see a similar proposal by the South to achieve these same ends.

We are confident that if the obstacles to reunification are removed—namely the presence of the only foreign force on the peninsula, the 46,000 U.S. troops and nuclear weapons—the Korean people and their representatives will agree to the appropriate method to bring about peaceful reunification.

We hope that at the earliest possible date, the Korean war's ceasefire agreement can be replaced by a permanent peace treaty.

The annual "Team Spirit" military exercises should be stopped and replaced by meaningful discussions about the peaceful reunification of the peninsula.

We have seriously considered the disarmament proposal of the DPRK Government which calls for the reduction of the armed forces of the North and South of Korea by stages to less than 100,000 troops respectively in a few years, and the withdrawal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons in stages.

The goal to reduce the level of militarization is one that must be supported by all peace-loving people.

The Korean peninsula should be turned into a nuclear-free zone of peace which will be a step forward for world peace. Demilitarization will also mean that those resources can be spent for the social needs of the peoples both in Korea and the United States.

We have visited the DMZ and witnessed the concrete wall erected by the U.S. and South Korean authorities on the southern side. We are also aware of the National Security Law in South Korea that has been used to arrest and imprison activists like Yim Su-kyong, Father Mun Kyu-hyon, and Rev. [Reverend] Mun Ik-hwan simply because they have traveled to the northern part of their own country.

These barriers to reunification must be removed.

The U.S. continues to interfere in the internal affairs of another nation through the maintenance of its troops and nuclear weapons and pursuit of its "two Koreas" policy. This has created a dangerous and volatile situation.

Without dialogue, the question of the division of the Korean peninsula cannot be solved, nor can the normalization of relations between the U.S. and the DPRK occur.

The time for dialogue is overdue.

We hope that the U.N. will take effective measures to implement the resolution adopted at the 30th session of the U.N. General Assembly on dissolving the "U.N. Command" in South Korea. This includes withdrawal of all foreign troops under the U.N. flag, replacement of the Korea Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty, and reduction of the armed forces of the North and South on an equal basis.

We feel that U.N. membership must come about only when there is an agreement reached between the North and South of Korea. Separate admission without such mutual agreement will only serve to legitimize the division and will create a new obstacle to Korea's reunification.

The issues of peace and reunification facing the Korean people should be seen as part of the overall desire for world peace.

The declaration appealed to the anti-war, anti-nuclear and peace organizations and social activists of the world to further strengthen the international solidarity with the Korean people in their just cause for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula.

U.S. Women Attend Peace Seminar in Pyongyang

SK0309220190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 3 (KCNA)—Ruth Cadwallader, chairperson of the Asia-Pacific Committee of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the USA, made a keynote report on "Tasks of U.S. Activists for Removing the Obstacles to Korea's Peaceful Reunification," the second item on the agenda of the seminar of Korea-U.S. anti-war, anti-nuclear organizations and community activists on peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula which opened here today.

She said tasks facing community activists are to educate the U.S. public as to the true historical record of U.S. imperialism in the Korean peninsula, its division and confrontation, to capitalize on the concrete wall, its symbolic tragedy, to help organize and work to impact congress so that defense budgets are cut, troops withdrawn and nuclear warheads removed and to promote and organize people to people tours to North Korea, that is, university professors, scholars, women, labor journalists, and to promote the cause of reunification through the labour unions.

The U.S. troops and nuclear warheads are the main obstacle to peaceful reunification, she said, adding: They must be out.

She said the U.S. public should be correctly informed of the true character and intentions of North Korea for reunification.

She demanded the United States recognize North Korea, renounce the current "terrorist" status and open doors to travel, post and communication.

Pointing to the tasks to implement these works, she said that it is imperative to educate the U.S. public as to the true historical record of U.S. involvements in Korea, events leading to the division - 1945-48, the U.S. occupation of South Korea, use of the U.N. to legitimize actions (still continuing) and thus set the record straight.

She proposed to provide good documentary films and organize a pool in order to correct the present nature of North Korea.

She also elaborated on the need to enlist the progressive press to publish information and promote a national campaign for reunification.

She stressed the need to align with solidarity with the struggle of dissidents in South Korea, extending appropriate support.

Fundamental Change in U.S. Korea Policy Urged

SK0309114590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 3 (KCNA)—Worse by now that the time has come that the United States should give up their hackneyed view of the past cold war period and make a fundamental amendment to their Korea policy in conformity with the trend of the times, said Kim Hyongu, vice-director of a department of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-chairman of the Korean Committee for Solidarity with the World's People, when making a keynote report on the first item of the agenda at the seminar of Korean-U.S. anti-war, anti-nuclear organizations and community activists on peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula held here today. [sentence as received]

He said:

If the United States earnestly wishes peace and detente, it should make sincere efforts not only in Europe, but also on the Korean peninsula where the danger of war is hanging heavily, and not in word but in deed.

It is inexcusable to maintain the U.S. troops in South Korea now that proceeding from the desire for the peaceful solution of Korea's reunification and the global disarmament, our Republic proposed a drastic arms reduction in the North and the South (respectively to 300,000 in the first stage, to 200,000 in the second and to or below 100,000 in the third in a matter of 3-4 years and the withdrawal of foreign troops has become a prevailing trend.

If the U.S. military bases and nuclear weapons in South Korea are aimed at other socialist countries, they no longer have any excuse to remain in view of the nuclear disarmament treaties and reconciliation between the U.S. and the USSR today.

It is urgent for the interests of the U.S. people as well to pull the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea, as a heavy enough supplementary burden is already imposed upon them for their maintaining of the massive armed forces and military bases overseas.

The U.S. authorities should not instigate the South Korean authorities to legitimize the national division of Korea, adhering to the anachronistic "two Koreas" policy. And instead, they should exercise their influences to have the South Korean authorities remove all political, physical and artificial barriers lying between the North and South of Korea including the concrete wall, a symbol of the national division, and honestly respond to realizing free travel and a full-scale open-door policy.

USSR Foreign Minister Shevardnadze Visits

Arrives in Pyongyang 2 Sep

SK0209105090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 2 (KCNA)—E. A. Shevardnadze, minister of foreign affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, today arrived in Pyongyang.

He was met at the airport by Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Chon In-chol, Korean Ambassador to the Soviet Union Son Song-pil and Soviet Ambassador here Gennadiy Bartoshevich.

Radio Reports Arrival

SK0209124590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Shevardnadze, minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, arrived in Pyongyang today by plane.

The flags of our country and the Soviet Union were flying at the airport.

The guest was met at the airport by Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Vice Foreign Minister Chon In-chol, and DPRK Ambassador to the Soviet Union Son Song-pil.

The Soviet foreign minister also was met by the Soviet ambassador to our country, Gennadiy Bartoshevich, and embassy staff.

Members of the Juvenile Corps presented bunches of flowers to the Soviet foreign minister.

Visits Fighters' Tomb, Towers

SK0209235790 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1500 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze, who is visiting our country, laid a wreath at the Taesongsan Revolutionary Fighters Tomb, the Liberation Tower, and the Friendship Tower on 2 September. Present on this occasion were Chon Il-chol, vice minister of foreign affairs; Son Song-pil, our country's ambassador to the Soviet Union; and Gennadiy Bartoshevich, Soviet ambassador to our country, and officials of his embassy. Korean People's Army honor guards were standing at the Revolutionary Fighters Tomb, the Liberation Tower, and the Friendship Tower.

The foreign minister laid a wreath at the Taesongsan Revolutionary Fighters Tomb amid the playing of the national anthems of our country and that of the Soviet Union and music for the laying of wreaths. The participants observed a moment's silence in memory of the fallen anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters.

That day, the minister of foreign affairs also laid wreaths at the Liberation Tower and the Friendship Tower.

Holds Talks With Kim Yong-nam

SK0209234090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze held talks yesterday at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Vice Foreign Minister Chon In-chol, DPRK Ambassador to the Soviet Union Son Song-pil, and Soviet Ambassador to our country Gennadiy Bartoshevich were on hand.

During the talks, discussions were held on international affairs, including the situation of the Asian Pacific region, and on a series of issues of mutual interest.

KCNA Reports Talks

SK0309053390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0528 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 3 (KCNA)—Talks between Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and Soviet Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze were held at the Mansudae Assembly Hall on September 2.

Present at the talks were Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Chon In-chol, DPRK Ambassador to the Soviet Union Son Song-pil and Soviet Ambassador to the DPRK Gennadiy Bartoshevich.

Discussed at the talks were matters of the international situation including the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and a series of matters of mutual concern.

Treaty on Border Signed

SK0309154790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1512 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 3 (KCNA)—A treaty of order on the Korean-Soviet borderline was signed in Pyongyang on September 3 between the Governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Present there were Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Chon In-chol and Korean Ambassador to the Soviet Union Son Song- pil and Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union E. A. Shevardnadze and Soviet Ambassador here Gennadiy Bartoshevich.

It was signed by Kim Yong-nam and E.A. Shevardnadze.

Departs 3 Sep

SK0309112590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1123 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Pyongyang September 3 (KCNA)—E. A. Shevardnadze, minister of foreign affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, left here Monday.

He was seen off at the airport by Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Chon In-chol, Korean Ambassador to the Soviet Union Son Song-pil and Soviet Ambassador to Korea Gennadiy Bartoshevich.

PRC, Soviet 'Attention' to Peninsula Noted

SK0409104090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Beijing September 2 (KCNA)—According to the information on the talks between Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and Soviet Foreign Minister E. Shevardnadze in Harbin, the two sides paid attention to the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Noting that genuine security and stability cannot be achieved in Northeast Asia without the settlement of the problem of the Korean peninsula, the two sides showed interest in the detente and stability of the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Pointing out that the dialogue between the North and the South of Korea is of great importance in easing the strained situation, the two sides expressed the hope that the forthcoming North-South High-Level Talks would yield positive results.

South Korea

ROK Reportage on North-South Talks in Seoul

Itinerary for Talks Released

SK3108132990 Seoul YONHAP in English 1309 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Seoul, Aug. 31 (YONHAP)—Talks between the South and North Korean prime ministers will start at 10 A.M. on Sept. 5 in the Inter-Continental Hotel with an exchange of greetings and key-note speeches. The session will be open to journalists.

On Sept. 6, they will discuss the agenda in a closed session from 10 A.M. and the northern visitors will return on the morning of Sept. 7, according to a spokesman for the South-North dialogue secretariat in Seoul.

He said two of the 88 North Koreans had cancelled for unknown reasons, but the other 86, including the seven delegates to the talks, will enter South Korea through the Demilitarized Zone on Sept. 4 at 10 A.M. and they will be met by national Unification Minister Hong Song-chol and the six other southern delegates.

While the two delegations sip tea in Peace House in the southern side of the truce village of Panmunjom, North Korean journalists and other members of the entourage will have their identification checked. They are scheduled to leave Peace House at 10:30 A.M., driving through the capital and arriving at the hotel in southern Seoul at 11:30 A.M. aboard 10 cars and three buses.

Nothing is scheduled for the afternoon, but the North Koreans may want to examine the communications and other facilities for the talks. The conference hall has been furnished with stenography and audio-visual recording equipment. In the evening, there will be a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun. Seoul Mayor Ko Kun will host dinner on Sept. 5 and National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu on Sept. 6.

The venues have yet to be decided. Shilla, Lotte and Hilton Hotels are possible venues for the first two dinners, but the mayor is said to be searching for "somewhere special." He apparently wants an outdoor stage in Olympic Park or Misari, the regatta course along the Han River.

Five floors of the hotel, 150 rooms, from the 26th floor up have been set aside for the North Korean guests and southern support personnel. More than 3,000 policemen and security guards will ensure the safety of the visitors.

South Korea will lay on a tour of Seoul and its environs after the two rounds of talks, including a visit to the National Museum. The North Koreans declined an offer to go shopping but will take in a movie, though it is not known which one. On the eve of their departure on Sept. 7, the North Koreans will be taken to meet President No Tae-u. They will arrive at Panmunjom at 11 A.M. and return home through the Demilitarized Zone.

South Korean officials said Friday that they were very careful in preparing the schedule for the conference and the itinerary as they will set the precedent for the second round of talks, slated for Oct. 16-19 in Pyongyang. They said North Korean liaison officer Choe Pong-chun is expected to play a key role in checking preparations for the talks in Seoul.

"Choe is more than a liaison officer, I believe. He was practically in charge of all the proceedings at the time of the North's delivery of flood aid in 1984. He also supervised the proceedings when the two sides exchanged hometown visitors and art troupes in 1985," an official said.

Further on Itinerary

SK0209005290 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 2 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] Talks between the south and north Korean prime ministers will start at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Inter-Continental Hotel with an exchange of greetings and keynote speeches. The session will be open to journalists.

On Thursday, they will discuss the agenda in a closed session from 10 a.m. and the northern visitors will return on Friday morning.

The 88 north Korean visitors, including the seven delegates to the talks, will enter south Korea through the Demilitarized Zone at 10 a.m. Tuesday and they will be met by National Unification Minister Hong Song-chol and five other southern delegates. While the two delegations sip tea in Peace House in the southern side of the truce village of Panmunjom, north Korean journalists and other members of the entourage will have their identification checked. They are scheduled to leave Peace House at 10:30 a.m., driving through the capital and arriving at the hotel in southern Seoul at 11:30 a.m. aboard 10 cars and three buses.

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The venues have yet to be decided. Shilla, Lotte and Hilton hotels are possible venues for the first two dinners, but the mayor is said to be searching for "somewhere special." He apparently wants an outdoor stage in Olympic Park or Misari, the regatta course along the Han River.

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Hotel room & board

While the south Korean delegates to the inter-Korea prime ministers' meetings are busy preparing for the talks, managers of the Inter-Continental Hotel, the venue of the meeting, said yesterday they will serve only Korean foods to the seven-member delegation from Pyongyang during their three-day stay there. That's for the taste of the north Koreans, said the manager, adding that deserts such as fruit and soft drinks will be all domestic products.

They said the seven delegation members will eat at "Hankawi" restaurant on the first floor of the hotel while the north Korean press corps and suite will eat at "Saranbang" coffee shop on the same floor. Five floors of the hotel, 150 rooms, from the 26th floor up, have been set aside for north Korean guests and southern support personnel. More than 3,000 policemen and security guards will ensure the safety of the visitors.

Hotel press center

The South-North Dialogue Office said yesterday that the press center for the inter-Korea prime ministers' talks opens 3 p.m. Monday at the Inter-Continental Hotel and closes at 5 p.m. Friday.

A spokesman for the dialogue office said the temporary press center, to be set up on the second floor of the hotel, is about 910 sq. meters and has press rooms for south Korean journalists, foreign correspondents, the north Korean press corps and a rest room. The press room for south Korean reporters will also be used as a briefing room, he said.

The press center has over 80 telephone lines, including 15 international lines and two direct lines to Panmunjom, four TV monitors, two copying machines, five facsimiles and 10 English typewriters, the spokesman said. Meanwhile, Hong Song-chol, minister of national reunification and spokesman for the Seoul delegation of the inter-Korea prime ministers' talks, is to give a press meeting tomorrow morning at 10 to disclose the stance of the southern delegation pending the south- north dialogue.

Schedule for conference

South Korean officials said Friday that they were very careful in preparing the schedule for the conference and the itinerary as they will set a precedent for the second round of talks, slated for Oct. 16-19 in Pyongyang. They said north Korean liaison officer Choe Pong-chun is expected to play a key role in checking preparations for the talks in Seoul.

"Choe is more than a liaison officer, I believe. He was practically in charge of all the proceedings at the time of the north's delivery of flood aid in 1984. He also supervised the proceedings when the two sides exchanged hometown visitors and art troupes in 1985," an official said.

50 N.K. reporters

North Korean journalists coming to Seoul Tuesday to cover the first inter-Korea prime ministers' talks will number 50, up two from the previous 48, as Pyongyang said yesterday So Tong-pom will not able to come to Seoul, adding instead three more journalists will be added to the press corps. Seoul and Pyongyang have agreed that up to 50 journalists from each side will cover the talks.

Unification Minister Comments

SK0309012190 Seoul Television Service in Korean 0045 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Report by Yi Son-ki from the conference room of the National Unification Board in Seoul—live]

[Text] Hong Song-chol, minister of the National Unification Board, gave a news conference to reporters this morning, one day before North Korean Premier Yon Hyong-muk visits Seoul. He said that the government would make utmost efforts to make substantial progress in North-South High-Level Talks, which are just two days away. Minister Hong also said that he was pleased to have realized the talks, even though there were some difficulties in arranging them. Minister Hong also said that in improving North-South relations it is most urgent to rebuild trust between the North and South and that he hoped that the upcoming talks will serve as a genuine opportunity for the North and South to rebuild mutual trust.

Referring to the itinerary of the delegation led by Premier Yon Hyong-muk, which will visit Seoul tomorrow, Minister Hong said that there will be three banquets, arranged by our prime minister, the speaker of the National Assembly, and the Seoul mayor and that some members of the North Korean delegation will visit President No Tae-u.

Minister Hong also said that because the agenda of the upcoming talks is to bring an end to political and military confrontation and to realize multifaceted exchange, political and military issues will be sufficiently discussed and that the pain of 10 million separated family members must be mentioned without fail in the talks. He added that he sincerely expected that the upcoming talks would serve as an epochal opportunity to improve North-South relations because the prime ministers of the North and South will meet for the first time in 45 years of division.

Influential Entourage Profiled

SK0309015390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0125 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 3 (YONHAP)—Some of the most powerful and influential North Koreans coming to Seoul Tuesday for talks between the prime ministers of the two sides are not on the seven-man delegation, but among the 33 officials and 50 journalists in the entourage.

Yim Chun-kil, vice chairman of the Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, is coming as an aide to Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk and is regarded to be the virtual No. 2 after Yon. Yim is a cabinet minister-level official. After serving as a director of the Administration Council in 1980, he headed North Korea's contacts with the South and his current positions include membership of the advisory committee for inter-Korean Red Cross talks. Yim visited Seoul in December 1985 for the 10th inter-Korean Red Cross talks. He is expected to exert a strong influence on the North Korean delegation from behind the scenes during the talks.

Another figure attracting attention is Choe Pong-chun, a liaison officer and aide to Yon, who has contacted Southern liaison officer Kim Yong-hwan at the truce village of Panmunjom three times to arrange the premiers' talks. Choe was also liaison officer back in 1971 for the Red Cross talks and visited Seoul in 1985 with Yim. Armed with a remarkable knowledge of South Korea, he is expected to settle issues arising during the North Koreans' stay Sept. 4-6 in coordination with southern officials. Aged around 60, Choe is viewed here as an expert in dealing with South Koreans. Choe Song-ik and Ho Ung-yong also visited Seoul in 1985 for the Red Cross talks. Choe, a deputy director of the Committee for Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, attended preliminary contacts for the premiers' talks.

The majority of the 33 members of the official entourage are new faces, not very well known in South Korea, and some 10 are support personnel who will offer stenographic, communications, medical and administrative services. The 50 journalists include 19 who visited Seoul in 1985. The majority specialize in inter-Korean relations and always appear at South-North talks at Panmunjom regardless of the subject. They covered Hyundai Group founder Chong Chu-yong, the Rev. [Reverend] Mun Ik-hwan and collegian Yim Su-kyong when they visited Pyongyang.

Among them are An Pok-man, deputy editor-in-chief of MINJU CHOSON (DEMOCRATIC KOREA), organ of the Administration Council: Pak Chun-min, an editor at MINJU CHOSON: Yi Kil-song, a director-level official of NODONG SINMUN: Choe Yong-hwa, a writer and literary critic who leads the North Korean delegation to the preliminary contacts on inter-Korean writers talks.

So Tong-pom, whose name was dropped from the list at the last minute, is a deputy editor-in-chief of NODONG SINMUN. He visited the Soviet Union in 1980, leading a NODONG SINMUN delegation.

Prospects for Success 'Mixed'

SK0309024790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0216 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept 3 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk, heading a seven-member delegation and accompanied by 83 officials and journalists, will arrive in Seoul on Tuesday for the highest-level inter-Korean talks since the division of the Korean peninsula in 1945.

Yon and the six other northern delegates will have two rounds of plenary sessions on Wednesday and Thursday with the southern delegates, headed by Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun, to discuss "matters of reducing political and military tension and promoting exchange and cooperation between the South and the North." Separately from the official plenary sessions, the two sides are expected to have unofficial meetings, such as private talks between the two prime ministers and working-level discussions among relevant officials, a government source said Monday. [passage omitted]

The North Korean delegates are scheduled to call on President No Tae-u at Chongwadae Thursday afternoon, after the two rounds of talks end. They are also invited to dinners hosted by Seoul Mayor Ko Kun and National

Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu. No and North Korean leader Kim Il-song are likely to exchange personal letters through the North Korean prime minister, the source said. [passage omitted]

The government held a high-level meeting chaired by the prime minister on Saturday to discuss the talks, the source said. The South, placing top priority on inter-Korean exchange and cooperation to build mutual confidence, is expected to present to the North concrete ways for economic cooperation such as joint development of the scenic Mt. Kumkang in North Korea and joint ventures in third countries, according to the source. Joint ventures would be possible if the South supplied capital and technology and the North the labor, the source said.

The South will also call on the North to positively respond to a proposal for summit talks between No and Kim. But the southern side thinks the two rounds of talks are not enough for deep discussions on the sensitive inter-Korean matters and wants to have other unofficial meetings behind closed doors, the source said. The South will flexibly cope with the issues of arms control and Korea's admission to the United Nations, on which the North is expected to place top priority, the source said.

On inter-Korean exchange and cooperation, the South is likely to propose stationing permanent representatives in Seoul and Pyongyang, forming a joint South-North economic committee, directly trading commodities and signing agreements on trade, travel and communications.

Prospects for the talks, despite their symbolic importance, are in fact mixed due to the sensitivity of inter-Korean relations caused by longtime rivalry and the strikingly different position of both sides in approaching the talks. The two halves of Korea, which fought a bitter war during 1950-1953 and have since remained adversaries, have had various levels of talks since early 1970s but failed to make substantial progress in easing military and political tension on the peninsula.

South May Propose Covert Aid

SK0309040190 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 3 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] It was learned that the government is planning to propose viable covert economic assistance to North Korea when President No Tae-u and Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun meet or hold tete-a-tete talks with Premier Yon Hyong-muk and to ask the North Korean leadership to closely examine this plan.

It was also learned that the government is planning to ask the North Korean leadership to make positive efforts to solve urgent problems, such as the reunion and home visits of separated family members who are more than 60 years old, home visits during Chusok [Korean Harvest Moon Festival], New Year's day, Hansik [when Koreans pay homage to their ancestors' tombs], and other festive days.

A high-ranking government source said on 2 September: "During the North-South High-Level Talks, which will be held on the mornings of 5 and 6 September, discussions can be held for only two hours on 6 September. That meeting is a plenary session attended by all the delegates of the two sides. Therefore, it is virtually an open meeting." He added: "Therefore, the government has decided to advance our proposal on various issues, which is difficult for us to do in public, and to tap North Korea's opinions when President No and Prime Minister Kang meet with Premier Yon."

This source also said that "when he meets with Premier Yon on the afternoon of 6 September, President No will frankly express our stand and plan on North-South summit talks, reunification, exchange, cooperation, military affairs, and other wide-ranging matters concerning North-South relations" and that "considering North Korea's hardened system and stand, we will give priority to the early resolution of economic cooperation between the North and South, the humanitarian exchange of people, and other viable matters."

This source also said that "in connection with the situation in which North Korea is facing difficulties at home and abroad, President No will express our willingness to extend covert wide- ranging cooperation to North Korea, will advance the proposal for covert economic cooperation to North Korea, and will ask North Korea to examine our proposal."

This source also said that "I only know that our proposal for covert economic cooperation is based upon a spirit of mutual help within a national community."

This source also said that "Prime Minister Kang will express our government's opinion to Premier Yon when they hold tete-a-tete talks" and that "the government will propose to the North Korean leadership that the North and South realize the humanitarian exchange of people, as well as promote covert economic cooperation."

ROK Spokesman on Expectations

SK0409010890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0057 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea hopes that the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks will help set the mood for a summit meeting between President No Tae-u and North Korean leader Kim Il-song and develop relations of co-existence and co-prosperity, a government spokesman said Monday.

"In the premiers' talks, we want to reach an agreement on inter-Korean exchange and cooperation suited to both sides and accumulate practical accomplishments while avoiding driving North Korea into a corner or getting on its Korean nerves," Kim Hyong-ki, spokesman for the South-North dialogue secretariat, said in his first briefing on the high-level talks that begin Wednesday.

The five goals the southern government has set for the talks also include resolving political and military matters based on confidence building, making practical accomplishments in discussions on inter-Korean exchange and cooperation and laying the groundwork for realizing unification based on a national commonwealth, which Seoul has proposed, Kim said. The North is expected to raise the issues of U.S. forces in Korea, nuclear weapons, which the North claims are deployed on the Korean peninsula, the National Security Law and the "Team Spirit" South Korea-U.S. annual military exercise, he said. The North is likely to present the unification formula proposed by the North Korean leader on May 24, Kim said.

The northern side may also use the talks to block South Korea's bid to unilaterally join the United Nations while paving the way for improving its ties with the West by showing gestures of rapprochement with the South, the spokesman said.

"But we would like to make the talks the start for seeking a common ground by narrowing differences through mutual understanding. We are optimistic on the prospects of the talks and will do our best for successful results," Kim said.

North Delegation Enters South

SK0409014790 Seoul YONHAP in English 0131 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Panmunjom, Sept. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk crossed the military demarcation line into South Korea Tuesday morning for talks on reducing tension and hostility, and on promoting cooperation between the two parts of the divided Korean peninsula.

Yon, heading a seven-member delegation and accompanied by 83 officials and journalists, is the highest-level North Korean official to cross the border for talks on inter-Korean relations since national division in 1945.

The North Koreans, wearing broad smiles, were greeted by their South Korean counterparts, including National Unification Minister Hong Song-chol, upon crossing the border at 10 A.M. [0100 GMT] in the truce village of Panmunjom, 50 kilometers North of Seoul. The North Korean delegates were to be escorted to the Hotel Inter-Continental in southern Seoul, where they will stay until Friday and where the talks will be held. They are to be received by South Korean Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun in the hotel at around noon, officials said.

The two sides will have two plenary sessions on Wednesday and Thursday and other unofficial encounters between the prime ministers or between working-level officials to discuss "matters of resolving political and military tension and promoting exchange and cooperation between the South and the North."

The premiers' talks are seen as a major turning point in the 45-year-long division of the Korean peninsula for easing hostilities between the two halves, which fought a bitter war during 1950-1953 and have since remained adversaries. The North Korean delegates are scheduled to call on President No Tae-u on Thursday afternoon.

North Koreans Met by 200

SK0409023090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0223 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Panmunjom, Korea, Sept. 4 (YONHAP)—Some 200 South Korean officials and journalists and foreign correspondents welcomed the North Korean delegates to the inter-Korean premiers talks as they crossed the border here Tuesday morning.

There were seven North Korean delegates to the talks, 33 support personnel and 50 journalists. The delegates arrived in Peace House in the southern part of the truce village of Panmunjom at 10:05 A.M. in seven sedans sent by the southern government. On arrival at Peace House, the northern delegates were presented with bouquets by seven elementary school children.

North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk entered Peace House with South Korean National Unification Minister Hong Song-chol. Dressed in dark brown suit and a cobalt blue tie, yon waved his right hand to the welcoming crowd. Jostled by more than 150 journalists, Yon walked slowly to the house after posing for photographers for a few minutes.

All but Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun of the seven-member South Korean delegation arrived at Peace House at 9:30 A.M. to welcome the northern visitors. The North Koreans rode in 10 sedans and several buses and sent their luggage to the South at 9:30 A.M.

North Spokesman Comments

SK0409032190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0302 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Panmunjom, Korea, Sept. 4 (YONHAP)—The truce village of Panmunjom, which sits between South and North Korea, should not serve as a symbol of division and confrontation but of reunification, the spokesman for the North Korean delegation to the inter-Korean premiers talks said Tuesday.

In a statement read in front of Peace House in the southern section of the village, An Pyong-su said, "We are leaving for Seoul with the sole wish to see the reunification of this land in tomorrow's world.

"The path we are treading leads to reunification. It is a thread that links the blood of the people... We bring our southern brethren the warm love of their northern brethren, a people of the same blood. Now, instead of the one-way pass through Panmunjom, we will strive to pave a wide road to reunification along the whole demarcation line so that everyone may pass freely," an said.

An, director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, said his delegation would try to contribute to forming an environment conducive to national reunification by "sincerely discussing political and military issues and all other related subjects with the South."

South Apologizes for Accident

SK0409075490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0736 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)—National Unification Minister Hong Song-chol apologized at a news conference on Tuesday afternoon for a car accident that slightly injured two members of the North Korean delegation as they were being driven to Seoul.

Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun of South Korea had planned to offer an apology to visiting Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk when he greeted him upon his arrival at the hotel, Hong said, but Yon dismissed the incident and said, "Everything was done with good intentions."

Kang will make an apology statement during the dinner he is to host in the evening, Hong said. Kim Chong-u, vice minister for external economic affairs, and Paek Nam-chun, Administration Council chief counsellor, were hurt when a car cut in front of their vehicle on Mapo Bridge, forcing their driver to slam on the brakes.

Yon: North To Remain Socialist

SK0409134590 Seoul YONHAP in English 1337 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk said Tuesday that North Korea would remain a socialist state based on its "chuche (self-reliance)" ideology.

The North Korean leader, however, said, in a speech delivered at a dinner hosted by his South Korean counterpart Kang Yong-hun, that Pyongyang would not enforce its ideology, thoughts and system upon Seoul.

"Enforcing its own thoughts and system on the other side would eventually bring about confrontation and collision and national disaster as well," Yon said. He proposed South and North Korea create a confederal state under which existing systems of both sides remain intact.

His speech came in an answer to Kang's welcoming address during a dinner held at the grand ballroom of Hilton Hotel. Kang said in his speech that the prospect of national unification would be "brightened" with the historic inter-Korean high-level meeting, which is to be held Wednesday through Thursday.

Kang said, "It is our mission to break off the chains of division and realize the national unification. The heartbreaking pain of division should be stopped at our generation." Before the dinner meeting, the two premiers had an exclusive one-on-one talk for 15 minutes at Hilton Hotel and reportedly discussed detailed itineraries of the North Korean delegation and agenda items to be discussed at the plenary talks.

Prime Minister May Meet Kim Il-song on 18 Oct

SK3108141290 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] It has been learned the North and South agreed at yesterday's liaison officer's contact that Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun will participate in the second round of North-South High-Level Talks from 16 to 19 October in Pyongyang and will pay a courtesy visit to North Korea's President Kim Il-song on 18 October.

A high-ranking government source said that it was agreed in yesterday's North-South liaison officer's contact that on 6 September, during the first round of talks, Premier Yon Hyong-muk, the North side's senior delegate, will pay a courtesy call on President No Tae-u, and that on 18 October, during the second round, Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun will pay a courtesy call on President Kim Il-song.

This authority revealed that when North Korean Premier Yon Hyong-muk pays a courtesy call on President No Tae-u, it is not known whether he will deliver Kim Il-song's personal letter or message, but if he does deliver Kim Il-song's personal letter, our side also will deliver President No's personal letter or message to Kim Il-song through Kang Yong-hun during the second round of talks.

President's Adviser on Relations With North

AU3108153490 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 31 Aug 90 p 4

[Interview with Professor Yi Hong-ku, special adviser to South Korean President No Tae-u, by Gerhard Bitzan in Vienna; date not given: "North Korea Wants To Get Out of Its Isolation"]

[Text] Vienna—Until last spring, Professor Yi Hong-ku was South Korean reunification minister and is today the special adviser to President No Tae-u. As the president's special envoy, he is currently traveling through five European countries, among them Austria, to "explain the situation on the Korean peninsula."

[Bitzan] Germany's unification is close at hand. Are there indications of a rapprochement on the divided Korean peninsula?

[Yi] At the least, the premiers of the two countries will meet for the first time on 4 September. There are also signals that North Korea wants to get out of its isolation. In view of the current public opinion, the detente between East and West, and the events in Eastern Europe, it is extremely difficult for Pyongyang to maintain its position.

The bad thing is that North Korea does not know what line to take, it is vacillating. On the one hand, there is the urgent need to adapt the policies to the new circumstances. On the other hand, the North Koreans believe that every opening would result in the breakdown of the system. They were confirmed in their opinion by Eastern Europe. Therefore, they avoid every contact with the outer world.

Moreover, they are still unable to give up their ideology. In our country there are demonstrations, et cetera. This is normal in a democratization process. We have to go through this. But the North believes that there is a revolutionary basis that can be developed.

[Bitzan] What role does North Korea's former mentor, the Soviet Union, play?

[Yi] The Soviet Union exercises pressure on North Korea. It faces the North with the alternative: either negotiations with the South and thus detente or maintaining the ideology, that is, the desire to depose the government of the South. The Soviet Union signals that both things are not possible at the same time.

[Bitzan] What is South Korea's policy on the North?

[Yi] We understand that things are not easy for North Korea for ideological reasons. Therefore, we tell them to take their time. It is clearly not our policy to isolate North Korea. With a view to reunification, we also say that we accept North Korea's system, we do not want to destroy its system.

[Bitzan] A week of reconciliation with an exchange of visitors was planned in August. Why did it not take place?

[Yi] North Korea was not yet prepared to open the country. Since January, propaganda on the willingness to open the country and South Korea's lack of cooperation was put forth. But we are in favor of the opening. There are many refugees who have not seen their country for 40 years. In this respect, his old mother exercises the greatest pressure on President No.

Of course, we also wanted to guarantee our citizens' security and their safe return. We made a list, 61,000 people filed an application. However, the North basically rejected this list.

[Bitzan] When will reunification be achieved?

[Yi] Reunification will take a long time. But, on the other hand, Chancellor Kohl still believed last year that he will not live to see German unification.

[Bitzan] How long can North Korea endure its increasing isolation?

[Yi] The economy of the North is in great difficulties. However, we must not underestimate its ability to survive. But the situation is becoming increasingly difficult. There are problems with electricity, they can hardly pay any longer for the necessary oil. So far, they have been able to survive with Soviet help. But today the Soviet Union has problems itself. Second, Moscow does not see why it should support a country that does not want to follow its perestroyka policy.

[Bitzan] And what about China's help?

[Yi] Last year's events on Tiananmen Square were a great psychological support for North Korea. But the economic relations are not so significant. Not least because South Korea carries on intensive trade with China.

Government To Expand Trade With North Korea

SK0209004190 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Sep 90 p 9

[Text] The Trade-Industry Ministry has decided to take a wide range of steps to expand trade with North Korea in case talks between Southern and Northern prime ministers successfully end.

The unprecedented consultations will open on Sept. 4 at the Inter- Continental Hotel in Seoul.

The government allowed business concerns to trade merchandise with North Korean in October, 1988 as part of its northern policy designed to open relations with communist countries. In particular, merchandise trade between the South and the North are free of customs duties.

However, trade with North Korea is far lower than expected. According to statistics from the ministry, inter-Korean merchandise trade has amounted to $32.535 million since October, 1988. In particular, imports of products from the North stand at $32.373 million in 101 cases, while exports to it amount to $162,000 in three cases. The ministry said that 61 items have been traded between the South and the North.

Among the 58 items brought in from North Korea are zinc ingots ($8.495 million), steel products ($8.415 million), anthracite ($2.94 million) and electrolytic copper ($2.55 million).

North Intelligence Moves in Hong Kong Reported

SK0109063290 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 30 Aug 90 p 4

[Report by Correspondent U Hong-che from Hong Kong]

[Text] On 29 August, THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST reported that about 70 to 80 North Korean intelligence agents are carrying out secret intelligence activities in Hong Kong by disguising themselves as employees of Chinese companies and using counterfeit passports and identification cards.

The paper said that they infiltrated into Hong Kong through Guangzhou, Guandong Province in China, and

Macao, Portuguese territory, and that approximately 200 North Koreans are residing in Macao as employees of business companies. The paper noted that the Pyongyang authorities maintain close relations with a number of China's state-operated enterprises in Guangzhou and since part of the administrative authority of Macao is assigned to the Chinese, North Koreans' activities in Macao are unhampered.

The POST, however, revealed that in Hong Kong, over which England exercises sovereignty, the request for entry visas from North Korea is rejected outright in most cases or subject to strict investigation. North Koreans, therefore, fabricate passports and identification cards in Macao to come into Hong Kong.

The paper also pointed out that it is not difficult for North Koreans, who disguised themselves as residents of Hong Kong, to carry out intelligence activities while freely traveling to major cities in the free world, including Seoul. According to the POST, Macao has been used as a special stronghold for planning intelligence activities, such as the bombing of a Korean Air passenger aircraft by Kim Hyon-hui, the Aungsan graveyard incident in Burma, and other subversive plots. The paper exposed that North Korean intelligence agents in Macao and Hong Kong are carrying out secret weapons sales and directing the assassination of figures hostile to the Pyongyang government, in addition to conducting terrorist acts against South Korea.

More Government, Media Reaction to Gulf Crisis

Official Denies U.S. Asked Aid

SK3108122490 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 31 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] In connection with THE WASHINGTON POST's report that U.S. President Bush had asked the ROK and other U.S. allies to share the upkeep of the U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf, Chong Ui-yong, a spokesman for the ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said on 31 August that "as of now, the U.S. Government has not officially informed us of this plan concerning sharing the military expenses and giving military assistance."

Sharing Upkeep Assessed

SK3108123090 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 31 Aug 90 p 4

[By Pyon Sang-kun, correspondent in Washington]

[Excerpts] Because of the Persian Gulf situation, the ROK is forced to take up enormous economic burdens. We are paying more money to import crude oil, which now costs more than $30 a barrel as a result of the situation. We also are suffering economic losses from the suspension of our construction projects in Iraq and Kuwait as a result of the UN economic sanctions against Iraq. On top of it, we will have to share some of the U.S. military expenses—expenses for U.S. military operations in the Persian Gulf—in return for the U.S. protection of crude oil transportation routes. [passage omitted]

We have two realistic reasons for which we have no choice but to accept the U.S. demand for sharing the upkeep. They are, the U.S. troops in South Korea and the existence of North Korea. Under circumstances in which the United States mobilized even reserve forces because troops were sent to the Persian Gulf, it is difficult for the ROK, where 43,000 U.S. troops are stationed, to reject the request for sharing the upkeep. Moreover, considering the possibility that North Korea may commit any military provocations, thus driving us into a difficult situation, we are not in a position to cold-heartedly turn our backs. We may examine the plan to indirectly share the upkeep of the U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf by increasing our share of the upkeep of the U.S. troops in the ROK. But it is doubtful whether the United States, which wants its intervention in the Persian Gulf to be seen as joint international reaction, will accept this plan.

Irrespective of whether we will directly or indirectly share the upkeep and whether we will send money or supplies, our burden will be very heavy. Also, our trouble is that our imports of crude oil directly from hard-line "nationalist" oil-producing countries in this region and other forms of independent diplomacy will have their own limits as long as military confrontation between us and North Korea continues, and as long as we rely on the United States in maintaining our security.

Opposition Urges Prudence

SK0109055490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0522 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 1 (YONHAP)—A South Korean opposition party urged the government on Saturday to respond "prudently" to a reported U.S. demand that Korea share military expenses in the Persian Gulf.

A report from Washington said that U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady is to visit Seoul to discuss the matter.

Chang Suk-hwa, spokesman for the splinter Democratic Party, said: "The South Korean Government should reach a careful decision after considering seriously such circumstances as the nation's excessive sharing of expenses for the U.S. forces here and relations with each country in the Persian Gulf in the wake of the recent policy change to diversify oil import sources.

"The government should pursue the national interest in a dignified and square manner, for the decision is not a matter of secret negotiations but is an affair to affect the national economy gravely."

Extensive Funding in Doubt

SK0309233290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Sep 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Excessive ROK Burden"]

[Text] It has been reported that U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady will soon, and even possibly this week, fly into Seoul to request financial backing from Korea in support of the American military operations in an effort to settle the Gulf crisis. The report came in a recent wire news dispatch from Washington indicating that U.S. President George Bush would now ask Japan, the Republic of Korea, West Germany, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the former government of Kuwait to provide money and oil, where available, to help finance the Gulf mobilization which may cost $2.5 billion by Sept. 30 and $11 billion by the end of this year.

With another report that Bush doubts there will be a negotiated settlement of the Gulf crisis caused by the Iraqi invasion on Aug. 2 of Kuwait, U.S. Pentagon officials reportedly said that the total U.S. forces stationed in the Middle East, including some 60,000 men already in Saudi Arabia, will be reinforced to the 150,000 level within six weeks to come.

The forced occupation by Iraq which conquered Kuwait a month ago must be jointly blamed as an anachronistic and intolerable act in defiance of world peace by the international community. Accordingly, notable is the fact that the United Nations Security Council, including the Soviet Union and China as leading socialist powers, has adopted five rounds of sanctions against Iraq. Following the U.N. resolutions, about 50 countries in the world have either sent troops to take part in a multinational force or joined economic sanctions against Iraq which invaded its neighbor Kuwait to annex it by force.

Thus most nations on the globe have displayed united action to disapprove and punish such a flagrant violation of the international rule and order. In this context, despite the risk that considerable amounts of money for construction services in Iraq would not be paid, our government immediately responded to the U.N. decision to invoke the economic sanctions.

Yet, it is difficult in light of our financial situation to fully follow the U.S. request that our country share a substantial portion of the financial burden of financing the operation of the anti-Iraq multinational military forces, led by the U.S. troops, and the money needed to help countries hurt by the trade embargo with Iraq.

No doubt, our nation is morally obliged to help our closest ally, the United States which still stations its troops here as a vital deterrent to provocations from the North. However, it would put the nation in an awkward situation if the United States asked us to bear a substantial financial part of the Gulf burden amid the reports that Bush has reportedly asked Japan and West Germany to pay $1.3 billion and $0.6 billion, respectively. In fact, South Korea is in a difficult position to pay for its own defense spending. The still developing country, which has yet to pay back more than $20 billion in foreign debts, is suffering from a protracted economic slump and export slowdown. Last year alone, it paid more than $2,219.5 million, directly and indirectly, in support of the American forces in Korea.

Especially dumfounding us is the report that the money the U.S. will ask Korea to pay in part will be used to help such countries as Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, India and the Philippines. Our country, being not richer than these countries, cannot afford to financially help them. This matter prompts us to review our government's reckless and short-sighted attitude in its northern policy of trying to make a show of economic power overly to East European countries.

Government officials are called upon to explain our real financial capability to the U.S. delegation led by Treasury Secretary Brady, and indicate we cannot afford to pay a sizable amount, so as to persuade the people of the reasonableness of the government measures in reply to the U.S. request.

Iraqi Envoy Justifies Invasion

SK0409073190 Seoul Television Service in Korean 1200 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Interview with Iraqi ambassador to the ROK Hay al-Jami' by Korea Broadcast System anchorman Pak Song-pom in Seoul on 3 September—recorded in English]

[Text] [Pak Song-pom] Mr. Ambassador, first of all, thank you for joining us tonight. It has already been a month since Iraq's 2 August invasion started. And so far, there is no sign of withdrawal from Kuwait. What is the Iraqi Government's solution to the invasion?

[Ambassador] Britain forced Kuwait to be a state in order to follow up its real policy of having divide and rule, and especially if this tiny district has (?petrol), so it is in the benefit of Britain and other Western countries to declare it as a state in order to force it to [word indistinct]. So, Kuwait was never a state and it belongs to Iraq, and as I said, it is like a mother who has lost her child and now is regaining it.

[Pak] Mr. Ambassador, whether it was an invasion or not, according to the resolution of the UN Security Council, most of the Western countries began to impose an economic embargo against Iraq. What do you think of the resolution? If the Korean Government takes a step helping the economic embargo, what will be your reaction?

[Ambassador] Well, first of all, I would like to tell you it is not a worldwide economic embargo or a UN embargo. It is the United States' embargo because the United States is standing against Iraq. So, they want to follow up this step and [pass] resolutions in a hurry to condemn Iraq.

[Pak] Now, 420 Koreans still are living in Iraq and Kuwait. Would you mind asking your government to help 420 Koreans get out of there?

[Ambassador] Well, the foreign minister very clearly stated that. As you know, I have very clearly told him. We consider Korea a friendly country, and it has preferential treatment. That's what all Koreans are free to leave at any time they like. [sentence as heard]

[Pak] Now, the Iraqi Government ordered power and water cut off for each foreign embassy. I think this violates international law. From the viewpoint of [word indistinct], don't you have any intention of discouraging your government from taking up that order?

[Ambassador] I would say it is time for our friendly Koreans to think about their interest in the matter. I know you have a good friendship with the United States, but please think again about your interest in the area.

[Pak] Thank you, Mr. Ambassador. Thank you again for joining us tonight.

[Ambassador] Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Japanese Paper Reports 'Team Spirit' Reduction

SK0109084490 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 31 Aug 90 p 2

[By correspondent Yi Nak-yon from Tokyo]

[Text] Quoting a reliable military source in Seoul, Japan's YOMIURI SHIMBUN on 31 August reported that the duration and scale of the "Team Spirit" exercise—a joint ROK-U.S. military exercise—will be reduced next year by approximately 30 percent.

The paper noted that this is the first such drastic reduction of the "Team Spirit" since 1976 when the exercise began and that the direct reason for the reduction is that the United States is required to reallocate its defense budget for its troops in the Mideast. This year, the "Team Spirit" exercise was staged for two weeks with the participation of 180,000 ROK and U.S. troops. But it is anticipated that next year approximately 126,000 troops will participate and the exercise will last 10 days. The paper also said further reductions of an additional 10,000 troops and of the duration by one day are possible if the stationing of U.S. troops in the Mideast is prolonged.

The paper reported that both the ROK and the United States, judging that reducing the scale of the "Team Spirit" exercise may be conducive to promoting the North-South dialogue, are planning to announce this step during the ROK-U.S. annual security consultative meeting in November this year.

Shevardnadze Urges Koreas To Reach Agreements

SK0409055990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0542 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Vladivostok, Sept. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Tuesday called on South and North Korea to reach agreements on military cutbacks and reunification issues of the Korean peninsula and then to "act them out."

In a major policy address to more than 500 participants at an international conference on dialogue, peace and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, Shevardnadze said the "concrete barrier" dividing Korea will come down soon just as did the Berlin wall. He suggested that foreign ministers from Asia-Pacific nations meet in the Soviet far eastern city of Vladivostok in the fall of 1993 to discuss peace and cooperation, adding that the proposal will be made to those attending the United Nations General Assembly in New York later this month. Shevardnadze virtually confirmed that the South Korean and Soviet prime ministers will meet at the United Nations.

"The most important step for South and North Korea is to come to a consensus on a military scaleback and other problems related to national unification and act out the agreed terms," the foreign minister said. "The Soviet Union fully supports the North's call for a nonaggression pact, arms reduction and denuclearization," he said, adding that the South has made similar proposals.

An intense military confrontation continues on the Korean peninsula, and there is a barrier there different in nature from the Berlin wall, he said.

"But I believe the wall dividing North and South Korea will vanish in the near future just as the Berlin wall collapsed last year," he said. Touching on the Persian Gulf crisis, Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union wants to "step up pressure for an international conference" on the Middle East and on efforts to defuse the crisis, and he firmly stated that he opposes resort to military force. He said North Korea shared the same view during his visit on Sunday and Monday to Pyongyang.

"The international community cannot allow the emergence of predator states or pirate regimes," he said. "A peaceful settlement should in no way imply that the agressor has nothing to fear. We are convinced that the sanctions will produce their effect.

"There is no reason why the Soviet Union should not hold a pan-Asian summit meeting," Shevardnadze told the conference, suggesting that such a summit may follow his proposed foreign ministers' meeting in 1993.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev earlier suggested setting up a security forum in the Asia-Pacific region similar to that in Europe. No nation in the Asia-Pacific region has naval forces that can independently secure safety at sea, the foreign minister said, suggesting that a "marine safety center" be set up. He said the Soviet Union is ready to begin the dialogue with the Asian nations for confidence-building and withdrawal of its troops from the area.

Shevardnadze Agrees To Meet ROK Counterpart

SK0409080990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0759 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Vladivostok, Sept. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has agreed to meet with South Korean Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung at the United Nations General Assembly opening in New York on Sept. 18, a Korean Government official said Tuesday.

Shevardnadze notified North Korea of Moscow's intention to normalize relations with Seoul during a recent trip to Pyongyang, the official said.

Pak Chol-on, a former first state minister for political affairs, and Kong No-myong, head of the South Korean consular department in Moscow, met Shevardnadze at an international conference that opened here Tuesday, the official said.

More than 500 people from over 20 countries, including both South and North Korea, are in this port city to attend the forum, titled "Asian-Pacific Region: Dialogue, Peace & Cooperation."

Pak and Kong reportedly requested a briefing on the Soviet minister's visit to Pyongyang on Monday and Tuesday, the official said, but Shevardnadze declined. He did say, however, that he urged North Korea to sign the safeguards accord of the International Atomic Energy Agency as soon as possible, according to the official.

Shevardnadze also reportedly said full South Korea-Soviet ties are possible this year and told North Korea of the plan during his visit. The Soviet minister had hinted of his meeting with his South Korean counterpart Choe in his opening speech at the forum when he proposed a meeting among all foreign ministers of Asia-Pacific nations at the U.N. Assembly to discuss a pan-Asian summit here in 1993.

Rogachev on Soviet Support for N-S Dialogue

SK0209062390 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 2 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Moscow, NOVOSTI/YONHAP—Igor Rogachev, deputy foreign minister of the Soviet Union, on 1 September said that the Soviet Union hopes that the North-South High-Level Talks, which will be held in Seoul on 4 September, will bring forth tangible results and that the Soviet Union is ready to support all the agreements reached at the talks.

Deputy Minister Rogachev, who is accompanying Foreign Minister Shevardnadze on his visit to China, North Korea, and Japan, stated this in his interview with NOVOSTI and stressed that the Soviet Union will continue to support the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula and the constructive proposals of both the North and the South. When he was asked what the Soviet Union expects from the forthcoming North-South High-Level Talks, he said, "The talks will be the most important event in the relations between North and South Korea, which have undergone repeated difficulties since 1972. The Soviet Union hopes that tangible results will come forth in the North-South High-Level Talks, which will be held alternately in Seoul and Pyongyang."

Aeroflot Representative Said Intelligence Officer

SK0209020790 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 1 Sep 90 p 1

[By correspondent Song Hui-yong from Tokyo]

[Text] A copy of a written note stating that Vitaliy Kuzmichi Pabliuk [name as published], who was nominated as a representative of the Seoul branch office of the Soviet national airline (Aeroflot), is an officer of the Soviet military intelligence bureau (GRU), was delivered to the office of the CHOSON ILBO correspondent in Tokyo.

* Presidential Credibility Crisis Decried

902C0234A Seoul MAL in Korean Jun 90 pp 34-37

[Article by journalist Yi Sang-u: "Current Standing of No Tae-u's Credibility"]

[Text]**Crisis Snowballed During No's First Two Years in Office**

It is difficult to pick one word to describe the cause of the state of instability and chaos apparent in all sectors of our national society—a state of affairs now being characterized as "a total crisis." The reason why the situation has deteriorated to what we see today is manifold and multifaceted.

If I am to cite the most central of all the reasons, without question I must finger the distrust in the ruling circle. The government itself not only has recognized the present situation as being a crisis but also acknowledged that the essence of the crisis is the loss of the people's trust in the government.

That trust is the cardinal element of politics is a truth that requires no substantiation—not even quotations from ancients and modern admonitions concerning politics. A political system devoid of trust between the people and the ruler is inherently prone to collapse. Indeed there is no question that a crisis starts to develop when the people become distrustful of the words and deeds of their government.

It is this kind of crisis structure which the present No Tae-u government has steadily worked itself into during the past two years and three months. Beginning with the broad pledge of building "an era of the ordinary people" as the Sixth Republic's governing philosophy and down to such specific plans as to giving the people a chance to make an interim evaluation of President No's performance in office, to introducing the true-name banking system, and to calling local elections to institute a system of local autonomy, countless such promises have been either broken outright or somehow made to disappear. To put it in extreme terms, people have now reached the point of not believing the government even when the government tells them that "beans are used to make bean paste"—an elementary truth. Even though the government has, as part of its effort to overcome the crisis, ordered public officials not to play golf and to refrain from making foreign trips, there is not a soul who believes these will actually happen. The government has also announced plans to bear down on real estate speculations and to see to it that land holdings of financial cliques are disposed of, but the people are dubious about the practical results of these measures. One telling measure of the degree of people's distrust in government policies is found in the fact that every time the government announced a market-priming measure in the past the stock prices invariably took a tumble instead.

The examples of the government's broken promises to the people are too numerous to enumerate. The government's thrashing about in confusion over policy questions and politicians' telling lies—these have been so commonplace that they are now viewed as customary practices. Each time it changed or nullified a promise made or a policy announced to the people, the government, in its own way, provided appropriate reasons. Thus, the people's distrust is not due to the unreasonableness of the explanations given for the broken promises; rather, it has to do with the falsehood committed by those of the ruling circle who made the unreasonable promises in the first place.

Ruling Circle's Incompetence at the Core of Crisis

It may be unreasonable to conclude that those of the ruling circle deliberately tried to deceive the people from the beginning. For it is conceivable that they might have set out to do a good job but various practical constraints caused them to stumble along the way and to fail to keep their promises. Even conceding that they had no intention to lie and that they tried to do some good only to end up breaking their promises, still the inevitable conclusion has to be that they failed because of their own incompetence.

Yet one cannot hastily draw a conclusion that the ruling circle of the Sixth Republic is indeed as incompetent as the foregoing suggests. For one thing, President No still has more than half of his term left; for another, and more importantly, given his character traits and style, there is no way to preclude entirely the possibility that the true mettle of his governing ability may yet surface as the second half of his term begins.

Be that as it may, it is incontrovertible just the same that at least up to this point President No has been guilty of many lies and broken promises, all of which cannot be construed as anything but the proof of his "incompetence."

Last January, immediately after the merger of the DJP [Democratic Justice Party], the Reunification Democratic Party [RDP], and the New Democratic Republican Party [NDRP] was announced, some members of the press focused on the dubious nature of President No's "words" and "promises." Aroused by the way President No had denied that there was any merger in the making—a denial repeated even just before the merger was announced on 22 January, the reporters went on to dig out those past words and deeds of President No's that subsequently proved contrary to the facts and chronicled them in their reporting.

There is a perception that a politician is by nature prone to lie. Especially under the kind of political climate that has existed in South Korea, the act of lying by politicians has come to be viewed as a customary practice. "Public pledges" given recklessly during election campaigns invariably turned into "empty promises," and "falsehood" and "trickery" ruled supreme over "righteousness" in the real-life political scheme of things—such has been our political climate. The tendency to regard all politicians as swindlers is still part of a perception shared by many people today.

But in any case such a generalized perception is only apropos for some of the "third-class politicians." It is not the kind of image that can possibly be perceived of a nation's president, the supreme ruler of the nation; if it were, the implications would be grave. For a president is to the outside world the indicator of the nation's moral standard.

Yet it is a fact that the ruling force led by President No is being rated lower than any other regime of the past, in terms of the people's trust, and that, moreover, President No himself is the subject of ongoing suspicion in connection with his words and deeds—a fact which cannot be termed as anything other than a misfortune not only for the ruling circle but for the people as well.

What Happened to the "Trust Me" Appeal?

Who is President No? He is a man who, despite being a key figure within "the 12 December group" [a group of military officers led by Chon Tu-hwan that took over the government on 12 December 1979 and proclaimed the Fifth Republic], has been regarded by the people as a person of relatively strong conscience. He is the man who issued the "29 June" declaration [of 1987] accepting the demands of the times and, on that strength, became a popularly elected president by garnering more votes than any other candidate even though he failed to win a majority.

During the 13th presidential election campaign, he appealed to the eligible voters with an image and words more daring and novel than those of other candidates. Among other things, he appealed to the voters to trust him.

"Please trust No Tae-u, yours truly!" This appeal, which he repeated in every one of his campaign speeches, together with his campaign catchphrase "An Era of Ordinary People," was believed to have played a significant role in enhancing the image of then-candidate No.

"An Era of the Great Ordinary People," which was not only No's biggest campaign pledge but also in effect his doctrine of governance after he assumed power, eventually became the title of a book he wrote. On the occasion marking the book's publication, President No said, "Should my words and deeds ever turn out to be contrary to the contents of this book, I want you to come to me with this book, and criticize me to your heart's content."

When he was making the "Trust me" appeal during the election campaign, presumably he had no mendacious intent at all. Chances are he genuinely intended to make good of his campaign pledges and, by so doing, govern the nation in the manner deserving of the people's trust. Despite his intentions, however, some two and a half years have elapsed since, resulting in the political realities of today in which "trust" is hard to find anywhere.

The ultimate cause of this situation must necessarily be traced to President No himself. That his public pledges and policies have ended up being led astray has something to do with his ability to govern; that aside, it is beyond dispute that on many occasions President No's personal words and promises proved to be self-destructive in terms of his own credibility.

The way he handled the three-party merger was but one example. At his New Year's press conference, which was held only 12 days before the merger was to be announced, President No touched on the question of political reform and said, "Matters such as reorganization and coalition cannot be achieved in an artificial and hasty manner; I believe they must be handled with due caution." He then declared: "Especially when it comes to the idea of forming a coalition, or getting in some other way involved, with some particular opposition party, I have not even considered it." But these remarks of his were exposed as false less than two weeks later. For it came to light that at the very moment of the press conference the question of merger with two opposition parties was already under in-depth discussion within the ruling circle.

It also came to light that the three-party merger had been worked out through "bargaining behind closed doors"—an approach that was an outright contradiction to President No's public statements.

Revival of Authoritarianism, Behind-Closed-Doors Politics, and Torture

During the early stage of his term in office, President No often talked about the openness doctrine in connection to his approach to governance. In his book "An Era of the Great Ordinary People" he elaborated his thought on this subject as follows: "Certain special individuals gather at a certain special place unknown to the people, make a secretive decision in an underhanded manner, thrust such a decision on to the people, and then have the audacity to glorify the decision as a laudable action—such is the deceitful "palace politics" which must, as we put an end to an authoritarian system, necessarily be forsaken once and for all. The stage for politics is not in a room behind closed doors but at the National Assembly and among political parties. In short, every process of politics should be open to the whole country. So here is my unequivocal pledge: Political machinations and trickeries I have none; I will only endeavor to promote a fair and open government."

And yet the three-party merger was worked out to perfection not at an open place but behind closed doors out of the people's sight. While keeping it secret not only from the people but also even from most of the staff officials of the three parties directly involved, the merger deal was successfully put together through behind-the-scenes negotiations between President No and leaders of the opposition parties, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil, assisted by only a few confidants on each side.

The way Assemblyman Chong Ho-yong's resignation was handled was another example of how President No's words raised questions about his credibility.

Last year, when the issue of removing Mr Chong from all public offices emerged as the last stumbling block to the process of closing the book on the Fifth Republic's affairs, President No not only stated publicly that Mr Chang's resignation from the National Assembly was entirely out of the question but also made this the DJP's official position on the issue; in the end, however, the matter was put to rest with President No accepting Chong's resignation. Especially during that process there were instances when President No self-deprecated the "weight" of his official status in the eyes of reporters by saying one thing and doing another. To be specific, on 23 December last year, during a year-end social meeting with the Blue House press corps, while on the subject of cleaning up the Fifth Republic's affairs, President No said that there was "absolutely no need" for him to have a personal meeting with Mr Chong Ho-yong, but mere 30 minutes later, it turned out, he did meet with Mr Chong at the Blue House and secured from him a promise to give up his National Assembly seat.

In addition to all the above, in his 1988 inaugural speech President No avowed that all bad laws and torture must be eliminated and that "conscientious" prisoners must be released. Yet the reality of South Korea's human rights problem is such today that it is even a matter of international concern as reflected in the reports on human rights conditions prepared by such external organizations as Amnesty International and the human rights subcommittee of the U.S. Congress. The reality is that all the bad laws in question still remain intact—they have not even been touched up at all, and that there are more, not fewer, arrests being made today for political reasons than there were during the Fifth Republic.

While traveling abroad last year, President No publicly stated that not a single conscientious prisoner was being held in South Korea—a statement many termed as either a lie or inappropriate at the minimum. Those of the opposition camp attacked him for making this kind of statement which, in their view, was enough to cast doubts on his, the president's, honesty.

Pledges to the People Turned Out To Be Fictions

Although these several examples cited above are bad enough to be injurious to the moral character of the president, the supreme ruler, in and of themselves they are not the cause of the general distrust of the people in the administration of the Sixth Republic. Rather, the core reason for the decline of people's trust in President No rests in the fact that major pledges he made and policy goals he set forth have either been reversed or transformed into empty words.

For example, the "interim evaluation" pledge has ended up in a fade-out, the true-name banking system has for all practical purposes disappeared from the agenda, and the "land is public" doctrine has, with each passing day, rapidly turned into a mere shell of the original promise—all these are examples of pledges and policies that have transmuted along the way.

When the 1987 presidential election campaign was entering its final phase, then-candidate No Tae-u through a press conference made a public pledge that if elected he would subject his performance in office to an interim evaluation by the people about a year after his inauguration. This pledge, which caught the opposition camp by surprise, received a very high mark as a vote-getting strategy.

Just how effective this pledge actually was in gaining votes was impossible to gauge accurately; in any event, candidate No managed to win the election—just barely. Needless to say the interim evaluation question turned into the biggest political issue hanging over the Sixth Republic in its early stage.

But with the passage of time the regime managed to come up with various justifications for steering the interim evaluation pledge—a promise made voluntarily by President No during the election campaign—in the direction of nonimplementation. At first President No and the ruling DJP said that "the interim evaluation process will be undertaken without failure," but then gradually their stance shifted: they appeared to be backpedaling when they began arguing among other things, that such a process might be in violation of the Constitution. Finally on 21 March 1989, a little over a year after President No assumed the office, his interim evaluation pledge was effectively made null and void for the stated reason that the process "could unsettle the democratic order and drive the nation into a state of crisis."

The true-name banking system and the "land is public" doctrine—these, too, were public pledges made by President No. Especially these were ideas emanating from the "29 June" declaration and therefore had a place in the moral foundation of the No regime; they were also the demands of the times. In this sense, they were more than just vote-getting gimmicks; there was more of the sense of "should be done" attendant to them. Yet these pledges, too, have either been reversed or ended in smoke. The true-name banking system ran into opposition by "the haves" and got derailed. In the case of the "land is public" concept, it sounded great but had little substance; it faded even before it had a chance to be implemented.

"An Era of Ordinary People"—An Idea Failed

Transmutation of pledges and policies, falsehood, double-talk, empty rhetoric—there have been many of these, but topping them all has to be the promise for "an era of ordinary people"—a promise that has absconded and is heard of no more.

' Dear fellow citizens, I know how hard it is for you to own your own homes. The time has come for you to let me, No Tae-u, take care of you. I give you my word: I will create a society in which not just the haves but the have-nots—the ordinary people like you and me—can own their own homes and lead comfortable lives. I will do this without fail. Please trust No Tae-u, yours truly."

So declared candidate No during the 1987 presidential election campaign; he promised to build "an era of ordinary people." In his book "An Era of the Great Ordinary People" he repeated the promise with the following words: "I will see to it that ordinary people, who comprise the majority of our population, can look forward to their future with a sense of physical and mental comfort, can nurture their dreams, and can make their dreams come true."

In the book he also avowed: "I will see to it that ordinary people can be entirely free of the worries of uncertainty and can plan, and work toward, a worthy future for themselves and their families."

But today, almost at the halfway point of No Tae-u's presidency, the realities are too far apart from the promised "era of ordinary people." With prices and rents skyrocketing—these are the realities, "ordinary people" are finding their lives increasingly wearisome while those with vested interests are becoming richer. When the situation is marked by hardship in people's livelihood, a breakdown in public order, and a mania for speculation sweeping the entire country, it is simply impossible for ordinary people to free themselves from the worries of uncertainty and to plan, and work toward, a worthy future for themselves and their families.

Today, even the slogan "An Era of Ordinary People" has vanished completely. That it has can even be taken as an indicator of where things stand with regard to the question of how much weight President No's words and promises carry nowadays.

Burma

Five Students Said Killed Near Thai Border

BK0409013090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1735 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Bangkok, Sept 3 (AFP)—Burmese troops have killed five students from the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) in an artillery barrage on a village near the Thai border, a student said here on Monday. Soldiers of Rangoon's 61st infantry regiment based in Ye township laid down an artillery barrage on Ah-arutaung village in Burma's eastern Mon state, some 10 kilometres (six miles) from the Thai border, on August 26, said the ABSDF source who requested anonimity.

About 30 students who were giving medical treatment to the villagers were in the village at the time of the attack, he said. Five of the students died in the barrage, one student went missing and three others were seriously wounded, he said.

Ah-arutaung, a village of some 500 inhabitants, was completely destroyed by the shelling, the source said. It was not certain how many villagers were killed or wounded, he added.

The source, quoting reports from inside Burma, said villagers in Ah-arutaung and neighbouring hamlets were in early July moved to a nearby Buddhist temple, as troops burned a number of hamlets in search of insurgents.

The ABSDF, Burma's most powerful student movement, led a pro-democracy movement which overthrew the government of former Burmese strongman Ne Win in September 1988, ending 26 years of socialist rule. Thousands of students, fearing persecution by the military, fled Rangoon and other Burmese cities to the Thai-Burmese border in late September after a group of generals staged a coup to crush the student-led movement.

DAB Prepares for Military Suppression in Sep

BK0209025290 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] The anti-junta Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB) has prepared areas in its liberated zones on the border with Thailand to take people who may flee Burmese military suppression expected later this month.

DAB chief spokesman Tin Maung Win said yesterday that bloody street battles in Burma, similar to the 1988 nationwide uprising when more than 1,000 people were killed by the army, are expected after renewed demonstrations. A bloodbath has been predicted following Thursday's declaration by two opposition parties, which won more than 90 per cent of the seats in the general election in May but were barred from forming a government, that they would convene Parliament in the middle of this month.

"We will send at least 10 to 15 columns of DAB troops near to the cities and towns in case of emergency or if the Burmese people need them. We can help and give our hand to these people," Tin Muang Win said.

Tin Maung Win, who is also a chairman of the Committee for Restoration of Democracy in Burma (CRDB) whose chapters are in many countries including the United States, said the Burmese military dictators, under the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), will not easily hand power to elected representatives. At the same time, SLORC has warned the opposition not to try to wrest power through confrontation.

There are only two weeks more before an elected government will be formed by the convening of Parliament. It is expected all concerned will be arrested or killed and demonstrations will erupt, he said. People will not listen to the Burmese military rulers if they ban the elected government from being formed. The DAB has discussed this matter and planned what it should do to deal with the situation.

Signs the military rulers will kill demonstrators have emerged since last month when Burma's 22nd Division and several other battalions, used to kill more than 1,000 demonstrators in 1988, were called to Rangoon where they have taken up positions at all strategic areas. Bunkers and road blocks have been installed to prevent demonstrations. However, if demonstrations start, the Burmese military will shoot, Tin Muang Win said.

"Today, the Burmese people live in fear. They are arrested by soldiers at night from their homes, never to come back."

His DAB group has closely monitored what is happening inside Burma, which has foreign reserves of less than US$4 million. The economic situation in Burma is very bad. Just before 1988, foreign reserves were $20 million. After the authorities gave timber concessions, fisheries contracts and also sold part of the land at the Burmese Embassy in Japan, they had $232 million to $240 million in foreign reserves. However, his sources say that by July, only $4 million was left.

Tin Muang Win claimed the money was used for the self-interest of the military rulers to buy arms and munitions from West Germany, Singapore and Pakistan. "We are following news reports that at least 40 tanks were bought by Burma from China."

On behalf of the DAB, Tin Maung Win said it did not recognise and rejects the SLORC plan to call a national convention of only 27 parties which participated in the election. "We cannot deal with the SLORC, because it does not represent the people," he said.

Cambodia

Factions Prepare To Attend Talks in Jakarta

Hun Sen Not To Attend

BK0209135590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 2 Sep 90

[2 September Letter from Hun Sen to Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas]

[Text] Phnom Penh, 2 September 1990

Excellency Ali Alatas, foreign minister of the Republic of Indonesia, Jakarta.

Your Excellency: I am very happy over the Cambodian informal meeting that your excellency has proposed to be held on 5 September in Jakarta to decide the composition of the supreme national council which will quickly open the way toward a common solution for the Cambodian problem.

Since Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea [CGDK] will not attend this informal meeting, I would like to send Mr. Hor Nam Hong, minister attached to the office of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers, to represent me at this meeting. In the case that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, head of the CGDK, agrees to attend this meeting, I will leave immediately for Jakarta to attend the meeting.

Please, Your Excellency, accept my highest regards.

[Signed] Hun Sen, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

Talks Delayed Until 6 Sep

BK0309101090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0945 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Hanoi Sept 3 (AFP)—A meeting scheduled to start Wednesday in Jakarta between the four warring Cambodian factions has been postponed until Thursday at the request of the Phnom Penh Government, a diplomatic source here said Monday. The Phnom Penh delegation, led by Hor Nam Hong, government minister attached to the Prime Ministry, asked for the 24-hour delay for technical reasons due to air transport problems, the source said.

Cambodian Premier Hun Sen said Monday that he would stay away from the Jakarta meeting because it will not be attended by resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk, but that he would go if the former Cambodian ruler changed his mind.

The meeting will discuss proposals for a peaceful settlement to the 11-year Cambodian conflict by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States. The plan foresees a major U.N. role in arranging and monitoring a cease-fire and administering the country in the run-up to general elections.

The meeting will be attended by the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh government and the three factions that make up the Cambodian resistance coalition—the followers of Prince Sihanouk and former Premier Son Sann, and the Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge.

Sok An Issues Message

BK0109020690 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Sep 90 p A2

[By Athawibun Srisuworanan]

[Text] The substantial concessions offered has induced the Phnom Penh government to agree to join its resistance rivals in an inter-Cambodian peace talks in Jakarta expected early this month, informed sources told THE NATION yesterday.

According to a message dispatched from Phnom Penh by Deputy Foreign Minister Sok An to the government here yesterday, the Vietnamese-backed government said it was willing to join the proposed peace meeting to discuss the formation of a Supreme National Council (SNC) to bring peace to the war-torn country.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, as a co-chairman of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia (PICC), invited leaders from the four Cambodian warring factions to Jakarta sometime early this month to negotiate the establishment of the SNC. The setting up of the SNC, a body to represent Cambodian unity and sovereignty during an interim period pending a general election, will be the first step leading to a comprehensive political settlement of the 11-year conflict.

Sok An said Phnom Penh would no longer insist that the Jakarta meeting be the first of the SNC's as agreed to by Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen and resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk in Tokyo in June. The previous stand of Phnom Penh had been strongly rejected by the Khmer Rouge. The about-turn was now viewed here as a concession which was conducive to convening the talks. The Phnom Penh government, however, insisted that there should be equal representation of the contending governments in the composition of the SNC and the meeting should be used as a basis for further negotiations, the sources said.

Sok An also proposed that the meeting in Jakarta should be held under the framework of the PICC's ad hoc commission, a Cambodian negotiating body to settle the internal aspects of the conflict, proposed by Prince Sihanouk at the end of the first PICC meeting in August 1989.

Other preconditions set by the Phnom Penh included demands that the peace talks in Jakarta must discuss the Cambodian seat at the UN in order to show the neutrality of the UN towards the Cambodian factions and the setting up of the SNC must be linked to a ceasefire in

Cambodia. It also demanded that any agreement derived from the meeting must be thoroughly upheld by all participants.

The resistance coalition, comprising the Khmer Rouge, followers of Prince Sihanouk and former premier Son Sann, had earlier pledged to attend the meeting. Hun Sen will head the Phnom Penh delegation to Jakarta, said the sources citing the message.

The sources said Phnom Penh arrived at the decision after consultations between an Indonesian delegation with the leaders in Phnom Penh in the Cambodian capital on Thursday and in response to Thailand's request. Kraisak Chunhawan's policy adviser, reportedly sent a letter urging Phnom Penh to take a more flexible stance and join the meeting.

Hor Nam Hong Interviewed

BK3108131190 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1128 GMT 31 Aug 90

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK August 31— "With regard to the five-point plan adopted by the 'big five' on August 28, 1990, I think that it could constitute a basis for the discussions among the Cambodian parties," said Mr. Hor Nam Hong, assistant minister to the chairman of the Cambodian Council of Ministers in charge of foreign affairs, in an interview granted to an SPK correspondent at the cabinet office this afternoon.

Following are the questions and answers:

Q: 1—Mr. Minister, what do you think about the documents recently adopted by the "big five" of the U.N. Security Council?

A: "We welcome the efforts made by the 'big five' U.N. Security Council members and other countries to put an end to the civil war and bring peace back to Cambodia. We sincerely thank them.

"With regard to the five-point plan adopted by the 'big five,' on August 28, 1990, I think that it could constitute a basis for the discussions among the Cambodian parties. Obviously, as it is a plan, certain points of the documents are worth discussing in further details in order to be able to reach an overall solution to the Cambodian problem.

Q: 2—What should be the role of the United Nations in this peace process?

A: "We have always said that the State of Cambodia accepts a major role played by the United Nations during the transitional period, notably the right to organize free and equitable general elections. We also accept that certain important ministries may be supervised by the United Nations so that the elections can take place in a neutral political environment. So doing, we accept a much more important role of the United Nations than that in Namibia, a territory under the U.N. Trusteeship, whereas Cambodia is a sovereign and independent state. Of course, the United Nations, in conformity with its charter and the universally recognized fundamental principles, must respect the sovereignty of the State of Cambodia and the right to self-determination of the Cambodian people.

Q: 3—Will the State of Cambodia participate in the Jakarta meeting?

A: "We are ready to participate in any meeting anywhere in order to find out a political solution as soon as possible. However, we must know what the meeting is to discuss and to what extent, so that it would succeed.

"I think that for the proposed Jakarta meeting to reach a concrete positive outcome, which will speed up an overall political solution, it should aim at finalizing the composition of the supreme national council, the venue and date of its meeting, and discuss the peace plan adopted by the 'big five'.

Q: 4—Has the government received an invitation to that meeting?

A: "No, we haven't received any invitation yet."

Hor Nam Hong, Delegation Depart

BK0409114190 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1100 GMT 4 Sep 90

["Communique of the State of Cambodia"]

[Text] A delegation of the State of Cambodia led by Hor Nam Hong, minister attached to the Council of Ministers in charge of Foreign Affairs and representative of Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, left Phnom Penh this afternoon [4 September] for Jakarta, Indonesia to attend the informal meeting on Cambodia.

Prior to his departure, Hor Nam Hong stated that he would use his best efforts to bring the meeting to success. Hor Nam Hong pointed out that Hun Sen is prepared to participate in the talks if Samdech Norodom Sihanouk is also present.

The Jakarta Informal Meeting on Cambodia has been arranged by the co-chairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia within the framework of the aforesaid conference.

Phnom Penh, 4 September 1990

SPK Criticizes Sihanouk

BK0309142690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1401 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Bangkok, Sept 3 (AFP)—Phnom Penh's Vietnamese-installed government on Monday criticized guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk for saying he will be absent from peace talks on Cambodia this week in Jakarta. Phnom Penh's official SPK news agency said it was "regrettable" that the prince would be absent.

SPK repeated earlier Phnom Penh calls for the former Cambodian monarch to break his alliance with the Khmer Rouge, the military backbone of the guerrilla alliance. "The prince should have the courage to sever his alliance with the Khmer Rouge while it is still time for him to do so," SPK said. The prince is the leader of one of two U.S.-aided non-communist groups allied to the Marxist Khmer Rouge, which seek to topple the Phnom Penh government, as well as the coalition's formal head.

Phnom Penh has tried to reach an accord with Prince Sihanouk in an attempt to minimise the future role of the Khmer Rouge.

Hun Sen, the prime minister of the government installed by Vietnam in Phnom Penh almost 12 years ago after Hanoi's forces overthrew a Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge regime, has announced he will stay away from the Jakarta talks because Prince Sihanouk will be absent. Phnom Penh is to be represented instead by the minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, Hor Nam Hong.

The talks come in the wake of peace proposals put together by United Nations Security Council permanent members—Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States—calling for a major U.N. role in administering Cambodia until elections are held there. The guerrilla alliance, including the Khmer Rouge, welcomed the plan. So has Phnom Penh, but it also expressed reservations and insisted that there should be tight guarantees on disarming the Khmer Rouge.

Mr. Hun Sen's refusal to attend the discussions in the Indonesian capital because of Prince Sihanouk's absence was in line with Phnom Penh's policy that an agreement be reached on a government-to-government basis between Phnom Penh and the guerrilla coalition.

Cambodian President Heng Samrin reiterated this stand in a speech welcoming the Jakarta talks and saying they should lead to a meeting of a Supreme National Council (SNC), a transitional authority to be formed with representatives of all warring factions within the framework of a settlement. Mr. Heng Samrin told a ceremony marking Vietnam's National Day that the SNC should be established on "bilateral and equitable" basis, in line with a communique signed by Mr. Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk in June.

The Khmer Rouge rejected the Tokyo pact, which provides for equal representation in the SNC of Phnom Penh and the guerrilla coalition, saying all four factions, and not two rival governments, should be represented equally.

Indonesia has said the beginning of the Jakarta meeting was tentatively set for Wednesday. But a diplomatic source in Hanoi said the start of the talks had been postponed until Thursday at the request of Phnom Penh.

Solomon on SRV Support

BK0309014890 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Sep 90 p 6

[Text] The four Cambodian factions will meet in Jakarta this week to discuss the United Nations' peace plan amid pressure that it could be their last chance to settle the conflict.

The three Khmer resistance factions have agreed to participate in the talks, from Wednesday to Saturday, which are sponsored by Indonesia and France. Phnom Penh earlier indicated it also would attend.

The round will focus on finalising an inter-Cambodian agreement on the composition and role of the Supreme National Council, which will hold Cambodian sovereignty in the period leading to elections and work with the UN administration.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas issued invitations for the meeting following a framework agreement reached by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council last week. The resistance factions received the message yesterday.

Resistance sources contacted by the BANGKOK POST said they are all prepared to go to Jakarta and expressed full support for the Permanent Five's proposals, the two key aspects covering transitional authority leading up to democratic elections and military arrangement. Resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk will not attend the Jakarta meeting, but instead looks forward to participating in the Paris International Conference on Cambodia to reconvene if the factions agree in Jakarta on the SNC. His son and personal representative, Prince Ranariddh, will lead the Sihanoukists.

At the same time, the Jakarta invitation was yesterday delivered to Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan, now inside Cambodia. He will lead the Khmer Rouge delegation to the Jakarta talks. Former Prime Minister Son Sann, leader of the nationalist Khmer People's National Liberation Front, will also attend the meeting.

US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon said yesterday the process of turning the Permanent Five's framework agreement into an operational plan needs the active support of Vietnam.

During the second round of US-Vietnam dialogue on Cambodia in New York, Washington had noticed that Hanoi still holds some reservations about the UN peace proposals for Cambodia, particularly on the military and transitional arrangements. "What the Vietnamese in effect said is that the Cambodians have to reach an agreement among themselves and that they would support anything that the Cambodians agree on. "That is kind of holding back or distancing themselves a bit from the process that many countries have directly supported or encouraged."

The US, he added, tried to explain to the Vietnamese that the Permanent Five's agreement is fair to all parties. "We believe that Vietnam's support is very important to this effort," he said.

The support of Phnom Penh is also needed, and the US will give further consideration to direct contact with Phnom Penh if it contributes to the process of implementing the UN peace plan.

He expressed cautious optimism on the Jakarta talks. "Our hope is that it will help lead to the creation of the SNC. We think it's a very important meeting," he said, adding, however, that this may not be the last meeting but part of a continuing process to put the Permanent Five's peace plan into operation.

Phnom Penh on Khmer Rouge 'Secret Meeting'

BK0209160590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 2 Sep 90

["Report by News Agents on Activities of the Khmer Rouge"]

[Text] According to reports by our news agents who infiltrated the Khmer Rouge ranks in regions 1001 and 100-something [muay roy bat lek], on 13 April 1990, Chhit Chhoeun alias Mok who is chief of the General Staff of the Khmer Rouge and commander of the Northern Military Region held a secret meeting with his most trusted military commanders. The meeting agenda included the discussion on the party orientation, combat tactics, and military strategies. These three points are the keys for arranging the totalitarian rule of the country in the future.

The pro-Chinese Khmer Communist Party [pak communist khmer chen niyom] has rearranged its structure to strengthen the party line comprising of the following leaders:

1. Pol Pot is in charge of research and the study of military strategies and holds the position of commander of the Western and Southwest Military Region—Takeo, Kandal, Kompong Chhnang, Kompong Speu, Koh Kong, and Kampot.
2. Nuon Chea is chairman of the National Assembly and commander of the Northwestern Military Region—Battambang, Pursat, and Pailin.
3. Son Sen alias Ta Khiev is the commander of the Khmer Rouge Army and commander of the Eastern and Northeastern Military Region—Kratie, Kompong Cham, Stung Treng, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Ratanakiri, and Mondolkiri.
4. Chhit Choeun alias Mok is the chief of the General Staff of the Khmer Rouge Army and commander of the Northern Military Region—Kompong Thom and Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey.

Political resolution:

The chairman of the meeting stressed that there is no need to rely totally on the Cambodian solution through international policy. Later on, Chhit Choeun alias Mok called on all the comrades attending the meeting to abide by the spirit of self-reliance and self-determination and to strengthen each individual's stance.

Chhit Choeun, alias Mok, said: All comrades should rely fully on our party. We have lost face before members of the international community. They, especially the Western world, have stopped supporting us altogether. The international situation keeps changing every passing day. This is because liberal democracy has infiltrated the world. However, our party still survives. There is no sign that China will abandon us. In addition to financial aid, China has provided us with all kinds of arms and ammunition and a large quantity of transportation means. At present, the influence of liberal democracy is penetrating the whole of Eastern Europe. China is also facing problems. To preserve our party, we must strengthen our stance. All wasteful usage of forces and materiel must be absolutely banned.

Views regarding a free and general election:

In a free, secret, and general election, our party will not be able to seize victory over our rivals. Although the situation is unfavorable to our party, we must seek every means to defend our party because we still have the necessary means and apparatuses for controlling villages, communes, and districts to hand over to cadres who have a firm stance. We must resolutely implement the seven principles of the party. It is imperative to check the number of people throughout the liberated zone to see how many percent of them support the Sihanouk, Son Sann, and Hun Sen groups.

Views regarding the establishment of the supreme national council [SNC]:

The establishment of the SNC is impossible if our side does not sign the agreement. No party can benefit from this SNC. If we cannot avoid the formation of a coalition government, we have men who can infiltrate this government. In this case, we will apply our "rust eating away the iron" [chreh si daek] tactics.

The utilization of the political warfare simultaneously with the armed struggle:

Chhit Choeun alias Mok said: In this case, we must consolidate our struggling stance. Regardless of any obstacles, we must take the opportunity to inculcate and disseminate our ideology. We must follow Sihanouk's line during 1971-74. To achieve our plan, each individual must have organizational discipline and consolidate our political composition and keep it as secret from our combatants and the masses.

It is imperative to recruit new combatants for reinforcement of our present manpower. It is imperative to make full use of our human resources. All these men are seedbeds for promoting and strengthening our ideology because they can induce their colleagues to support our party. Under the leadership of our party, the heads of guerrilla units are the main core of our struggle. We must economize the utilization of manpower and weapons in order to be prepared for a protracted guerrilla war. At present, our army and party are superior to the two other factions. We must seek this opportunity to expand our armed activities deep inside the interior of the country, particularly in the Phnom Penh region and other provincial towns.

The prospects of a civil war:

If peace is restored in Cambodia in line with the political solution as proposed by Australia and through the pressure imposed by the big powers—the permanent members of the UN Security Council—it is clear that the parties engaging in the conflict will not be able to compromise with each other for a long period of time. Our party is well aware of this fact. Consequently, a civil war will break out soon. By then, we will apply our subversive tactics. Ammunition we have stored up will last for seven to eight years. The masses who we have been indoctrinated will certainly support us, and we will be able to seize the final victory.

Resistance Reports on Upcoming Jakarta Talks

Ranariddh Not To Attend

BK0409070090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] The office of the personal representative of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in Cambodia and Asia discloses that Prince Norodom Ranariddh, general secretary of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC], supreme commander, and commander in chief of the National Army of Independent Cambodia, has designated His Excellency Chak Sarik, his political adviser, to replace him and lead a FUNCINPEC delegation to attend the talks among the four Cambodian parties in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh said he very much regretted that Hun Sen has refused to attend the meeting and has instead ordered Hor Nam Hong to replace him. Prince Ranariddh further said he is ready at any time to attend this meeting if Hun Sen changes his mind on attending the meeting.

The FUNCINPEC delegation is due to leave Bangkok for Jakarta this Tuesday morning. The meeting among the four Cambodian parties will discuss the establishment and [words indistinct] of the supreme national council [SNC] [words indistinct] the UN Security Council. [?Hun Sen said] he will not attend this meeting in Jakarta because Samdech Norodom Sihanouk is not going to the meeting.

Son Sann Delegation Leaves

BK0409064490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] A delegation of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] is leaving for Jakarta to attend the talks to solve the Cambodian problem.

The KPNLF delegation comprises nine members and is led by His Excellency Son Sann himself. It is expected that His Excellency Son Sann, KPNLF president and prime minister of the Cambodian national government, who is in Paris, will leave today for Jakarta, accompanied by three colleagues: Son Soubert, member of the KPNLF Executive Committee; General Thach Reng, adviser to His Excellency Son San; and (Sieng Lapresse), KPNLF ambassador to the United Nations.

The other five members of the KPNLF delegation also left via Bangkok for Jakarta this morning. They are: Ieng Muli, KPNLF general secretary; Penn Thol, chef de cabinet of the KPNLF president; General Chum Chieng, member in charge of internal affairs and inside the country; (Chit Sakun), chief of the public relations office of the KPNLF secretariat; and (Pol Ham), [words indistinct] of the Executive Committee and editor in chief of the Voice of the Khmer radio.

The talks in Jakarta among the four Cambodian parties will be held on Thursday [6 September] this week.

Plan for 'Nationwide Offensive'

BK0109084990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Khmer Rouge radio yesterday said its guerrillas were poised to launch a nationwide offensive if talks next week on the United Nations peace plan for Cambodia failed.

The radio disclosed that at this moment the Khmer Rouge are adjusting their forces and preparing to launch large-scale attacks throughout the country if the next round of talks does not produce any agreement.

The radio added that Khmer Rouge forces killed 35 Vietnamese-Heng Samrin troops and wounded many others in fighting in Kompong Kdei and Chikreng Districts, Siem Reap Province.

VODK Carries 'Text' of Sihanouk Statement

BK0209023090 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian president and leader of the Cambodian National Resistance [CNR], on 31 August in Beijing issued a statement voicing full support for the peace plan mapped out by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC]. The following is the text of the statement:

In my capacity as the leader of the CNR, I would like to declare that my government, the National Government of Cambodia, and the tripartite CNR totally and unreservedly support the most recent proposals and peace plan of the five permanent members of the UNSC and we have pledged to implement the peace plan. However, if implementation is impossible, Hanoi and Phnom Penh should assume full responsibility. In Jakarta, the CNR delegations shall do everything possible to favor peace. We will not hinder the path toward peace.

Indonesia

Ministry Says China To Attend Cambodia Talks

OW0409100190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0728 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Jakarta, Sept. 4 KYODO—China will send a delegation as observers to the four-party Cambodian talks opening Wednesday in Jakarta, Indonesian Foreign Ministry sources said Tuesday. Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said Monday the talks will be held here from Wednesday through Friday.

Indonesia invited all four Cambodian factions and all but Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen have confirmed their willingness to attend the meeting, he said.

This will be the first time China has sent a delegation to Cambodian talks in Jakarta.

When he visited Jakarta in August, Chinese Premier Li Peng confirmed that China would stop military assistance to the Cambodian resistance if other countries also stop aiding parties to the conflict.

The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council called last Tuesday for the early formation of a provisional government, or supreme national council, to work with the U.N. for the establishment of a sovereign and neutral Cambodia.

Alatas on Gulf Evacuations, Cambodia Meeting

BK3108125890 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 1200 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] The Indonesian Government will dispatch a special plane to Amman, Jordan to pick up Indonesian nationals who have fled Iraq and Kuwait following the Gulf crisis. Speaking to newsmen in Jakarta today, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said a special Boeing 707 plane will soon be dispatched upon confirmation from the Indonesian Embassy in Jordan. The minister added that a total of 182 Indonesian refugees are now stranded in Amman and another 150 are expected to arrive in Amman from [name indistinct] using a land route.

Responding to a question on the Cambodian issue, Minister Alatas said the holding of another session of the Jakarta Informal Meeting cannot be confirmed yet, but hopefully it can be held in September. In addition to the four Cambodian factions, a special envoy of the UN secretary general is also expected to attend the meeting in Jakarta.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1206 GMT on 31 August adds the following: "'I cannot say that there will be a meeting, but the indication is encouraging,' Mr. Alatas told [the] press conference.

["'If it turns out that the positions of the factions are still apart and that there was no hope for an agreement, we will not convene a meeting,' he said. 'It is better not to have a meeting than to fail again.'

["He said he was still awaiting a response from the four warring Cambodian factions to his proposed agenda for the informal meeting. "The meeting should focus on the process towards the formation of a supreme national council (SNC), including its composition and its function, as well as documents agreed on by the U.N. Security Council's five permanent members, he said. 'I hope it can be convened as soon as possible, at least in the first half of September before the United Nations General Assembly starts,' he said, adding however that participants must first show their 'willingness to strike a just and acceptable compromise.'"

["Mr. Alatas called the U.N. peace plan an important breakthrough and a positive contribution towards a comprehensive settlement in Cambodia and said it presented a 'unique chance' for the parties to reach a settlement.

["He said a senior Foreign Ministry official had just returned from Beijing and Phnom Penh to discuss the meeting in Jakarta with the leaders of the four factions and all of them had some questions about the meeting. "The process of consultations was continuing and an announcement would be made in the next few days, he added."

["'If a meeting can be held in Jakarta and if it succeeded on the points (of the proposed agenda), the next step will be to think how to reconvene the Paris conference for the comprehensive settlement,' Mr. Alatas said, adding however that 'there are still many ifs.'

["He said the meeting in Jakarta would be attended by Indonesia and France as co-chairmen of the Paris conference, and probably by a representative of the U.N. secretary general, along with the four Cambodian factions."]

Suharto Meets Bangladesh Foreign Minister

BK0409112990 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1007 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Jakarta, Sep 4 (OANA/ANTARA)—President Suharto Tuesday received Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud who brought a special message from the Bangladeshi president about the need for Asian countries to discuss the current Middle East crisis.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, after accompanying President Suharto in receiving Anisul Islam Mahmud, said Indonesia and Bangladesh shared the view that the Middle East crisis should not flare into an armed conflict. "We both believe the conflict should best be resolved peacefully on the basis of the resolutions of the UN Security Council which are supported by the majority of the world," he said. This commonality of views appeared after the Bangladeshi foreign minister elaborated the Bangladeshi position on the crisis, he added.

During their meeting, President Suharto also explained the Indonesian position on the crisis and the results of his recent talks with the special emissary of Kuwait's king in Jakarta.

On the planned Cambodian meeting, Alatas could not confirm whether Hun Sen would attend the meeting or not. However, he kept on contacting Phnom Penh to get the confirmation. Hun Sen was reported of having said that he would come to Jakarta only if Prince Sihanouk would join the meeting, too. The four warring factions of Cambodia were invited to the meeting, Alatas said. However, Sihanouk has said that he would not join the upcoming meeting because he was no longer the leader of FUNCINPEC. He has handed over the leadership to his son, Prince Ranariddh, who is expected to head his faction's delegation to Jakarta.

Alatas said that the Jakarta meeting most likely will be attended also by Rafiuddin Ahmed, a special envoy of the UN Secretary General.

During the meeting to be chaired by Indonesia and France, the UN delegation will not join the talks directly, but they would be ready to answer some questions if needed, Alatas added.

Philippines

Reportage on Middle East Situation Continues

Aquino Rejects Iraqi Oil Offer

HK0109060390 Manila DWIZ Radio News 882 in Tagalog 0400 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] President Corazon Aquino firmly rejected an offer by the Iraqi Government to trade oil for sugar from the Philippines. In a press statement issued by the president, she said that while a trade protocol had been concluded between the Philippines and Iraq, it has been suspended because of the eruption of the Gulf crisis.

The Iraqi offer was conveyed by the Sugar Regulatory Administration. Iraq is seeking 50,000 tons of sugar in exchange for its crude oil. President Aquino said other sources of oil will be sought by the Philippines. One possible source is the Soviet Union.

The president also explained that as a United Nations-sponsored trade embargo against Iraq is still in force, no United Nations member can trade with Iraq.

Manglapus Returns From Tour

BK0209150590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1443 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Manila, Sept 2 (AFP)—Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said on his return from a Middle East tour Sunday that Baghdad allowed him into Iraqi-occupied Kuwait last week for a visit to the Philippine Embassy there. He gave scant details of his visit to Kuwait City, saying only that he stayed there for one day and that he never saw any soldiers surrounding the U.S. Embassy.

He told reporters he also met with several thousand Filipinos at the Philippine Embassy compound who were waiting to be evacuated. Informed sources here said the visit took place Thursday.

Mr. Manglapus said that during his visit to Baghdad Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told him Manila's plan to take the stranded Filipinos out of Kuwait and Iraq through Iran could not be implemented for the moment. The proposal, to which Tehran had agreed earlier, was "not turned down outright" but "I understand the problem is security," he said. Iraq and Iran fought an eight-year war that ended in a truce in 1988.

There were about 60,000 Filipinos in Kuwait and 5,000 in Iraq during the August 2 Iraqi invasion. Although the Filipinos have not been detained—unlike Western nationals—less than a tenth of the total have managed to return home.

Mr. Manglapus said Mr. Aziz proposed that Iraqi Airways planes be used to fly the Filipinos out or they could be evacuated by sea via the Iraqi port of Basra.

He said Manila considered the first plan "unrealistic" because the Philippines could not afford to subsidize the plane fares while the second proposal would mean the vessels would "then have to go through the (U.S.-led naval) blockade."

Iraq Urges 'Peaceful Role'

HK0409094190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 4 Sep 90

[By Jennifer Postigo]

[Text] The Iraqi Government is urging the Philippines to play an important role in the current conflict between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti Governments, in which the United States has an active participation. This was stated by Iraqi Ambassador Ali Sumaydah to congressional reporters after his dialogue with House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr.

When asked what kind of role his country wants the Philippines to play, he said: A peaceful role. He wants our government to convince the United States to pull out from the Middle East and not to meddle in their affairs and just leave the two conflicting countries to resolve their own problems. He added that Iraq will not leave Kuwait because it is a part of Iraq based on their history as far back as 1935. However, Ambassador Sumaydah assured that after this crisis in the region, their government will reopen its doors to all Filipino workers wishing to work there:

[Begin recording in English] [Sumaydah] As you know the Philippines have hundreds of thousands of workers in the region and it also has some interest, economically speaking, in the oilfields, so after all the peace will directly benefit the Philippines as well as other countries.

[Reporter] You are talking of a peaceful role, what kind of a role do you think the Philippines should play?

[Sumaydah] To tell the Americans and convince them to withdraw from the region and to leave the problem to be solved by our countries. [end recording]

Antibases Protest Held at U.S. Embassy

HK3008132990 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Two dozen militant students sprayed red paint over the United States seal at the U.S. Embassy in Manila. The protestors also waved banners demanding the removal of the U.S. bases in the country. Policemen were not able to stop the students' action and no one was arrested. The negotiation on the bases issue will resume next month.

Council Submits Master Bases Conversion Plan

HK0109084790 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 1 Sep 90 p 10

[By correspondent Rolando Pascual]

[Text] After almost a year of discussions, the 17-member Legislative-Executive Bases Council yesterday agreed to endorse to President Aquino on Oct. 4 the "viable" alternative uses of the U.S. military bases here as contained in the Master Bases Conversion Plan.

The council, which met for seven hours last night, endorsed a two-pronged plan on the "assumption" of a U.S. bases pullout by 1991. Council Chairman Dr. Antonio Abueva told the CHRONICLE that they have addressed one of the basic requirements of the plan by identifying various funding sources.

As the plan's centerpiece, a civil aviation complex will be built in Clark Air Base while Subic Naval Base will be transformed into a maritime industrial complex.

Abueva said that while most of the funding would come from the proposed sale or lease to the private sector of military camps in Metro Manila, which is estimated to generate an initial amount of P100 billion, a "bigger amount" will come from private sector investments. He said that roads and power lines, for instance, could be funded by private investors under the government's build-operate-and-transfer scheme.

Abueva said that the council had already requested President Aquino to "negotiate with the U.S. on the joint military and civilian use of the bases." Abueva said that under the Human Resources Development PLan, the council had also considered alternative sources of livelihood for displaced base workers, women, urban poor and indigenous cultural minorities. He did not give the details of the plan.

Abueva said that the aviation complex, envisioned to be thrice as large as the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, would bring in a "great deal" of trade and industry to the Asian-Pacific region. "It would be a major entry point of tremendous number of passengers and cargo," he said.

Another member, Rep. Felicito Payumo (LP [Liberal Party]-Bataan), said the infrastructure plan alone could generate jobs for some two million to four million Filipinos.

The plan also includes:

—Building of industrial estates in both Clark and Subic and other sities.
—Infrastructure projects for both bases, covering most of Cetral Luzon.
—Building of fishing and trans-shipping port in Subic.
—Launching of agro-industrial and tourism projects in the bases and nearby areas.

Abueva said that the conversion plan, "which is the biggest area development plan the country would ever have," would be integrated in the development plan of Western and Central Luzon and the National Capital Region.

Abueva also called on the Senate to immediately pass a joint congressional resolution, earlier passed by the House, authorizing the president to immediately dispose of the Metro Manila military camps. The finalization of the council's plan coincides with the upcoming RP [Republic of the Philippines]-U.S. negotiations on the fate of the military bases.

Aquino Reaffirms Confidence in Defense Chief

HK3103134790 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] President Aquino reaffirmed her confidence in the capability of Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos to defend her government. The president also justified the military's failure to capture those responsible for the series of bombings in Metro Manila. Secretary Ramos earlier denied having any involvement in the next coup. Here is the president's statement as read by Press Assistant Secretary Didi Siytangco:

[Begin recording in English] Secretary Fidel Ramos has my complete confidence. The military is now on the tail of some of the bombers. The manner in which the bombings had been done makes early apprehension of the culprits difficult. [end recording]

De Villa: Martial Law Will Not Solve Problems

HK3108114590 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Armed Forces chief of staff General Renato de Villa asserted that martial law is not needed despite the prevalence of violence in Manila. In an interview, General de Villa said that martial law is not the solution to the problems facing the country. The key, he said, to peace and economic development is cooperation between all sectors of Philippine society. At the same time, De Villa warned against the widespread support of a ceasefire as a resolution to the security problem. General de Villa stated that a thorough study is needed on the demands of the dissident groups and on the conditions which the government needs to offer them. Here is part of General de Villa's statement:

[Begin De Villa recording] The answer to this is not only to resort to martial law. What is needed is everyone's cooperation concerning our problems and we should not be inclined to believe that the solution to all of these problems is martial law. It could be that our problem can not be solved by martial law. Like martial law, it is also easy to talk of a ceasefire. But what we need maybe is to study thoroughly whether or not this could really solve our problem or may just aggravate our problems in the future.

Now, we could not go on with the situation where there are many armed groups. Everybody knows that these arms are the root of the trouble. So, what we are really after are these arms. [end recording]

De Villa Denies Army Training Command Walkout

HK3108114990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 31 Aug 90

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa denied a reported mass walkout by officer-students undergoing special studies at the Army training command in Fort Bonifacio. Army chief Major General Guillermo Flores said this is merely propaganda by the enemies of the armed forces in their plan to sow widespread misunderstanding among military members. Here is part of General de Villa's statement:

[Begin recording—in progress]...the Philippine Army commander regarding that report because that is not true. There was no walkout. [end recording]

Noble's Forces Launch Mortar Attack on Troops

HK0109085590 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 1 Sep 90 pp 1, 8

[By Fe B. Zamora]

[Text] Renegade forces under fugitive officer Col. Alexander Noble launched a mortar attack on a Marine detachment in Esperanza, Agusan del Sur, and killed a Marine soldier in the 25-minute gunfight that followed, a military report said yesterday.

Reports reaching Camp Crame also said Constabulary soldiers nabbed on Tuesday four tribesmen with two sacks of sweet potatoes and one sack of rice believed intended for Noble and some 250 armed followers holed up in Esperanza. Noble, a former chief of staff of the Presidential Security Group (PSG), and his followers have fought troops sent to flush him out of his mountain stronghold since July 16. At least two soldiers have died and six others were wounded in the skirmishes.

Maj. Gen. Cesar Nazareno, Constabulary chief, said Pfc. [Private First Class] Ramir Lagrama was killed Wednesday when Noble's men fired an 81 mm mortar at the 49th Marine company detachment in Barangay Bunaguit, Esperanza.

The report said the Marines held their ground for 25 minutes until the attacking renegade members of the Citizens Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) fled with their wounded. It was the second mortar attack launched by the rebels on government troops. Last month, the rebels fired a mortar on the detachment of the Army's 8th Infantry Battalion, killing a soldier and wounding four others.

On Tuesday, a PC [Philippine Constabulary] patrol team led by 2nd Lt. Reynaldo Abejuela intercepted the four natives carrying food provisions in Barangay Nato, also in Esperanza. The suspected Noble supporters were released to the custody of a certain Rosario Doquit after being questioned. The military had imposed a food blockade in the area, hoping to force Noble and his followers to surrender.

The ongoing operations have diplaced some 7,000 residents in Esperanza and nearby Prosperidad. The evacuees are housed in school buildings where they are served by social workers.

Noble, who has a P500,000 reward for his capture, was linked to the failed December coup attempt. He was captured in Leyte in December but managed to escape and reach Agusan where he has since been holed up along with loyal Higaonon tribesmen he had recruited into the CAFGU.

Meanwhile, authorities in Bukidnon fear an outbreak of violence between the warring Dumagat and Magahat tribesmen. A report sent to Nazareno from the Bukidnon PC command said the Magahats ambushed on Sunday Mayor Jeremias Santacera, of San Fernando who was assessing the peace and order situation in his town. Santacera escaped unhurt, the report said.

The report said the Magahats, some of whom are outlaws, have high-powered weapons.

The office of cultural communities has asked the PC to temporarily stop routine patrols, but local government officials dismissed it, saying the absence of police patrols will lead to an escalation of hostilities.

The report did not mention the reasons for the hostilities between the Dumagats and the Magahats.

NPA Warns Mayors Not To Form CAFGU's

HK0109085990 Quezon City MALAYA in English 1 Sep 90 p 3

[By Jeol Dizon]

[Text] Baguio City—The Chadli Molintas Command of the New People's Army [NPA] operating in the Central Cordilleras has warned local officials, particularly town mayors, not to form Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units [CAFGU's]. If they do, they would place themselves under the category of "active enemy combat personnel" and open themselves to assassination or liquidation, the Ifugao-based rebels said in a statement.

The statement said the vice mayor, a certain Humiding, of Hungduan municipality in Ifugao has been killed for guiding CAFGU elements and PC [Philippine Constabulary] soldiers in an attack against communist rebels.

The AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] reported the incident, which took place on July 24, as an encounter that followed harassment by insurgents of an AFP relief operation. The NPA denied this, saying Ifugao was not badly hit by the July 16 earthquake.

"There are no ongoing relief operations in Hungduan, Ifugao whether via airlift or land transport—unless 60-millimeter mortar shells are now considered as relief goods," the statement said. Maj. Mel Pia, public information officer of the Cordillera Regional Command in Camp Dangwa, La Trinidad, Benguet, belittled the NPA statement saying it was a mere "dilution of facts."

The military described Humiding as popular and highly-regarded by residents "whose death constitutes a major setback to the NPA's futile bid to win grassroots support."

Meanwhile, an NPA commander identified as Isaaw Benito was killed in Abra while reportedly leading a small unit of rebels who fought members of the CAFGU and Cordillera People's Liberation Army unit in Sitio Tanlag, Labuagan, Abra.

No casualties were reported on the government side.

Thailand

U.S.'s Solomon Visits, Discusses Cambodia

Welcomes PRC, USSR Agreement

BK0409015590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Sep 90 p A2

[Excerpts] A visiting US official yesterday said support from Beijing and Moscow is "very important" to Cambodian peace efforts and called their agreement to cut arms supplies to Cambodian guerrillas consistent with an accord reached by the UN Security Council last week. Richard Solomon, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, made his statement after a meeting with Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan.

The Chinese press reported yesterday that Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze pledged to end their military assistance to their respective clients among the four warring Cambodian factions.

Premier Chatchai yesterday welcomed the report on the arms cessation, saying Thailand has long called for such a move to pave the way for a political settlement in the war-torn country, according to Government Spokesman Suwit Yotmani.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC]—Britain, China, France, the United States and the Soviet Union—concurred last week in New York on a comprehensive peace framework outlining a UN civilian and military role in Cambodia during an interim period leading to free elections. The UN plan covers five general areas—political and military arrangements, UN-sponsored elections, human rights and international measures to guarantee compliance with the framework.

Solomon said Washington was working with Beijing and Moscow to get the Cambodian parties to agree and commit themselves to the UNSC accord. Support from China and the Soviet Union is "very important" and their agreement to halt arms supplies indicated that all Perm Five members are working together toward a final peace solution. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Vietnam's Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai, who stopped here on his way to the United States, expressed hope yesterday that the four Cambodian parties would reach an agreement in Jakarta. Le Mai, former ambassador to Thailand, stressed Hanoi's support for the UN plan but added that internal issues including the establishment of the supreme national council must be handled by the Cambodians themselves. The Vietnamese minister made a courtesy call yesterday on his Thai counterpart, Amnuai Yotsuk, who along with Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan is newly appointed to the ministry.

Meets Subin, Views Iraq

BK0309105590 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry Somphong Faichampa reported on the meeting, this morning, between Richard Solomon, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Asian and Pacific affairs and Foreign Minister Subin Pinkhayan. The two exchanged views on the Cambodian problem. Richard Solomon told Minister Subin that the United States supports the decision of the permanent members of the UN Security Council. Subin meanwhile told Richard Solomon that Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan also supports the resolution. Chatchai said that worldwide support for the resolution is a good sign. The next meeting on Cambodia will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The two also exchanged views on Iraq. Richard Solomon reported on the situation and the implementation of an economic blockade. The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry noted that Thailand followed the measures adopted by the UN Security Council. Last week, Thai authorities called back cargo ships belonging to the Thai private sector from the Persian Gulf.

Asked by newsmen about the problem in Iraq, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said that it is believed the problem will be discussed at the coming U.S.-Soviet summit. Concerning the Thai embassy in Kuwait, Somphong said that although the embassy is still open, it is not operating. There are only guards taking care of the embassy compound.

Exiled Kuwaiti Oil Minister Gives Interview

BK0109031090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Sep 90 p A10

[Interview with Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri, oil minister of the Kuwaiti government-in-exile, by THE NATION editor Thepchai Yong, in Bangkok on 31 August]

[Text] [Thepchai Yong] I understand that you are on a mission to seek support for the government-in-exile of Kuwait.

[Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri] I have been assigned by His Royal Highness Amir of Kuwait to several Asian countries to express thanks for the support they have given to Kuwait against the Iraqi invasion. I have visited Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore. I am also trying to find out whether it is possible for certain countries to take a stronger stand against the Iraqi aggression.

[Thepchai Yong] Can you be more specific about what you mean by a "stronger stand", especially as far as Thailand is concerned?

[Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri] We would like to see a clear condemnation on the aggression. The international community has agreed that the aggression is not acceptable under any international laws. The action has been condemned by the five members of the UN Security Council. So it is very important that governments take a strong stand against this aggression because if we don't, it is very likely that it would be repeated somewhere else.

[Thepchai Yong] Has Thailand taken strong enough a stand on the issue? Thailand has endorsed the UN Security Council's resolution condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and is abiding by the trade sanctions against Iraq.

[Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri] I am very happy that Thailand has endorsed the UN economic sanctions. But we would like to see a stronger condemnation of the Iraqi aggression. I will be seeing the Thai foreign minister on Monday (to urge Thailand to issue a strong condemnation of the Iraqi action).

It is a matter of principle that aggression of one country by another is not acceptable. By any international laws and norms, we just cannot allow a small country which has good relations with its neighbours to all of a sudden disappear or be invaded and annexed by a neighbour. I understand that some governments have strong relations with Iraq. But inside Iraq itself it (invasion of Kuwait) has been condemned. Many Arab countries that have had strong relations with Iraq, for instance Egypt, have also condemned it. So it is very important that the stand of the world is clear. And it is very important that Asian countries make their stand clear and strong. It will be recorded in the history that they have taken a strong stand against the aggressors.

[Thepchai Yong] Would you rather see a negotiated settlement or a use of force to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait?

[Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri] We always want to resolve the issue peacefully. However, Saddam Husayn is pushing the entire region toward war. He has closed almost every door to neogitations. Just as his foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, was to meet with the UN secretary general in Jordan, Saddam proclaimed Kuwait to be his 19th province. He is making things complicated. So Saddam Husayn is really the one who will be deciding the future of the region—whether it is going to be war or it is going to be peace.

[Thepchai Yong] What is the stronger possibility—war or peace?

[Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri] At the moment, Saddam is indeed pushing the entire region toward war. I hope he comes back to his senses and realizes that he cannot stand alone fighting the entire world. It is the responsibility of the Iraqi people to exert whatever pressure on the Iraqi leader to push him toward a peaceful solution.

[Thepchai Yong] Do you think the on-going efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis will succeed?

[Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri] We always hope that these talks will bring about a peaceful solution. But it is very important that the core of the problem—that's the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq—has to be resolved first. That is to say an immediate withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and a restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait before any negotiations can start.

[Thepchai Yong] Does it look to you that Saddam Husayn is sincere in arriving at a negotiated settlement to the crisis?

[Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri] We do not trust Saddam Husayn. He has lied several times to us, to the many Arab leaders. He has lied to everybody. So I think in resolving the crisis, we must do something to make sure that we are dealing with the right person. We cannot deal with somebody whose words do not carry any weight.

[Thepchai Yong] Would your government accept a UN peace-keeping force or an all-Arab force in Kuwait in the event that Iraq agreed to withdraw?

[Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri] This can be discussed but I am not in a position to make that decision right now. Kuwait has always been flexible and trying its best to resolve the conflict peacefully.

[Thepchai Yong] Supposing that the Iraqis agreed to withdraw from Kuwait as part of a peaceful settlement, would Kuwait be able to live with Iraq with Saddam Husayn still as its leader? Would Kuwait rather see him removed from power so that he would not pose any more threat?

[Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri] Kuwait has a policy not to interfere in the internal affairs of any country. It is left to the Iraqi people to decide what they want to do with Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi people are wise enough to be able to evaluate their leader and see where he is taking them. Obviously, if he is taking them on a course against the entire world, they would do their best not to go along.

[Thepchai Yong] Do you think there are factions in the Iraqi armed forces that might be opposed to Saddam Husayn?

[Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri] According to my knowledge, there are several factions that are opposed to him. The decision to pull back 50,000 Iraqi troops from Kuwait to Baghdad was a decision to protect him because there are many officials in the army who are opposed to his policy.

[Thepchai Yong] Saddam Husayn is being idolized as hero in some of the Arab countries because he is seen as challenging the west. What do you think?

[Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri] Many people have been misled by him. Some of them see Saddam Husayn as a hero challenging the United States and Israel. This might be true before in terms of his military strength. But when he used his strength against a peace-loving country like Kuwait, the whole picture has changed. These people will sooner or later realize that he cannot be trusted. How can you trust somebody who is invading a country which has had strong relations with him for a long time? He is pursuing his own ambitions. He is not a man of principle.

[Thepchai Yong] Had the western countries, particularly the US, not reacted militarily to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, do you think Iraq would alrady have invaded Saudi Arabia also?

[Dr. Rashid al-'Amiri] Iraq has a big plan to control the entire Gulf areas—Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and other Gulf countries. This was obvious because the Iraqis did not need to have 150,000-170,000 soldiers for the invasion of Kuwait which had an army of 15,000. So they had a plan to expand into Saudi Arabia and the Emirates. Kuwait was the start.

Iraq Implicated in Saudi Diplomats' Murders

BK0409022190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Sep 90 p A4

[Text] The Saudi press has reported that an Iraqi terrorist group shot and killed three Saudi diplomats in Bangkok last February and that Iran had no connection to the crime as hinted by Saudi media at that time.

Informed security sources in Thailand told the Jeddah-based Arabic daily AL-MADINAH that the Iraqi owner of a Manila restaurant had arranged for forged travel documents for the killers of the three diplomats, Abdallah al-Basri, Ahmad al-Saif and Fahd al-Bahli.

The AL-MADINAH story was also reported by the English-language daily, SAUDI GAZETTE, in its Aug 27 issue.

Investigations have shown that Mustafa Muhammad, owner of an Arab restaurant in Manila, is a key figure in an Iraqi terrorist group, Al-MADINAH said. According to the Thai sources, Mustafa confessed that the Iraqi ruling party had masterminded the assassination operation which was planned 45 days in advance. He further admitted his cell was part of a wide network which operated under the direct command of the Iraqi leadership and carried out terrorist activities associated with the Persian Gulf.

The aim of the assassination was "to mislead the Arab and Islamic media into believeing that (it) was carried out by an Iranian terrorist organization in retaliation for security measures implemented by Saudi Arabia against those who tried to undermine the security of pilgrims during the 1988 Haj," the SAUDI GAZETTE, quoting AL-MADINAH daily, wrote.

The Thai security sources added that the links were unveiled when some defendants and suspects in the assassination case, who were under close security observation, tried to contact their bosses in Iraq and ask them to intervene to get them released.

A senior official at the Thai Central Investigations Bureau said the investigation into the assassination of the Saudi diplomats has been completed and that a full file of the case would be sent to Saudi security authorities. The official added that the leader of the hit-squad which carried out the killings, a Thai national named Sochelot Hezabi, 28, and his aunt had confessed to his crime and that he had contacts with Mustafa Muhammad.

Chawalit Announces Will Form New Party 'Soon'

BK0109014090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Sep 90 p A1

[Text] Former army chief Gen [General] Chawalit Yongchaiyut yesterday assailed the ruling Chat Thai Party for seeking political power for "business gains" and announced that he will very soon form his own political party to fight through the parliamentary system for a chance to run the country.

Answering a question after a sabre-rattling speech at the Imperial Hotel on his political stands, Chawalit also held out the possibility that Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan may soon dissolve the House and call a snap general "so my party would not be formed in time."

He was addressing the Association of Thai Reporters on the same day he resigned as senator, deputy general director of communist suppression and adviser to the government on foreign policy matters. He did not mention his post as special adviser to the Armed Forces which was given to him after he left the Cabinet in June. About 500 people packed the dining hall to hear the speech. The audience consisted mostly of businesspersons, politicians and about 100 army officers.

At the end of his speech, Chawalit declared he was ready to run the country. "I have made up my mind, no turning back, to start my political activities and I am resolute in realizing my goal. I hope that such a statement won't offend anybody," he said.

Chawalit said he needed a political party to stay with and to contend against the wide perception that the strength of a party is measured by the number of its MPs [members of parliament].

Referring to former military leaders' failure in politics, Chawalit said he would not follow in their footsteps. "They loved the country and wanted to serve their country as politicians but why did they fail? I don't want to repeat their mistakes," he said, citing as examples Gen Kriangsak Chamanan, Gen Prem Tinsulanon, both former premiers, Gen Athit Kamlangek, now a deputy prime minister, and Adm [Admiral] Siri Sirirangsi, who is now deputy leader of the Phalang Tham Party.

"Politics these days abounds with money, power and lies," he said. Chawalit added that he will not be tempted by these things but would count on a political party which will be open to public accountability.

While finding fault with the drawbacks in the present parliamentary system, Chawalit said he would fight by the present rules of the game.

In answering a question, Chawalit said his party would not use money in recruiting members. The party will count on a fund drawn from "open, honest businesses" and donations, he said. It will be the first party to report its revenue and expenditure accounts to the Interior Ministry, he said.

The ground-breaking ceremony for his party's nine-storey building will be held later this month, he said, adding that the party will have nine zone branches throughout the country. There will be three layers of members: the senior echelon, the operative level and his friends. "My friends and I will serve as pioneers and we will retreat from politics in four years, leaving the party leadership to the up-and-coming level of party operatives," he said. "If you want to help the country, support Chawalit," he said.

Chawalit, referring to the aim by Chat Thai to gain 150 seats in the House in the next polls, said he heard that the 150 MPs would include those from Puangchon Chaothai and Ratsadon parties. "My aim is not that ambitious," he said, referring to two of the parties in the ruling coalition.

Immediately after ending the question-answer session, two businesspersons—Sunari Santinaralak and Prasit Pakdipanitpalanuparp—rose to take the microphone, announcing that each of them will donate Bt [Baht]1 million to Chawalit. They said they did so because they did not like the present government and were impressed by the ex-army chief's decision to form his own party.

Responding to another question, Chawalit said the Cabinet reshuffle early this week was aimed at only improving its image to enable the government to survive its four-year term. He said he decided not to join the Chatchai II Cabinet because he could not accept the Chat Thai Party's way of seeking power to do business.

Without naming names, he went on to chastise the premier's style of management. "Running a country is not a matter of putting up a show, taking risks, abusing powers to seek business gains, money and power, royal decorations, or to tame others," he said.

Referring to the familiar "no-problem" approach of Chatchai, Chawalit said a ruler should know what the country's problems are and how to solve them. "I am not poking fun at anybody and if that person does not know, let me say this to him. If a ruler avoids solving minor problems, only saying that there are no problems, those problems would develop into major ones," he said.

Referring to Chatchai's remark that the government is now "99 percent" democratic, Chawalit jested: "What kind of a democratic government is this which is plagued with internal quarrels?" Democracy is judged by where the ruling powers ultimately rests, and not only by the act of election, he said. "A democratic government must comprise two components: It is elected by the people and it gives freedom to the public," he said. The second element is more important than the first one, he said.

Chawalit also voiced support for journalists' campaign for the unconditional abrogation of the draconian Decree No 42 and expressed optimism that their campaign would finally succeed in the near future. "Please don't give up," said Chawalit, who adorned an anti-Decree 42 button.

Citing a theory by late US President Thomas Jefferson, Chawalit said the rule without freedom of information is that of a tyrant. He said the ruler must be made to understand this point.

Striking back at an accusation that "a force outside the parliamentary system" was trying to undermine the democratic government, Chawalit said: "I am sympathetic with persons who have problems about political instability. It is understandable that these people must find scapegoats to pass the buck to."

"How can I topple the government which I created with my hands? Let me or Premier Chatchai die and I can tell that the one who is still alive will never forget our deep relationship. I have contributed a lot to Chat Thai in the past eight years. I helped bring the party from the opposition into the (Prem) government not because I wanted the party people to have (Cabinet) positions but because I wanted to strengthen the public's faith in democracy. "One day after Gen Prem dissolved the House (in 1988), we concluded the formation of the next government at the Rose Garden golf course," he said.

Chawalit also dismissed an accusation that those who had lost power tried to topple the government. "How can Gen Prem do that when it was he who created this government and transferred his power to the present prime minister? It does not make any sense for him to do so," said Chawalit, who served Prem for many years.

In his hour-long speech, Chawalit sought to defend himself against widespread charges which he said were hurled against him during his self-seclusion following his resignation from the Cabinet last June. The accusations included instigating the military to stage a coup, organizing mobs to try to undermine the government's political stability, he said.

He said if he wanted to stage a coup, he would have done it when he was army commander-in-chief. "I am opposed to any coup. I had to take care of those kids (Young Turks in the army) who were imprisoned for staging a coup and helped them out of jails, hoping to see them realize their mistakes," he said, referring to the young army officers who engineered the coup attempts in 1981 and 1985.

Vietnam

Meeting With U.S. Held in New York 31 Aug

BK0109153290 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Following the 6 August 1990 meeting, on 31 August at the headquarters of U.S. delegation to the United Nations in New York, the second Vietnam-U.S. meeting on the Cambodian issue was held with Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang, head our country's UN permanent delegation and Mr. Quinn, deputy assistant to U.S. state secretary.

The meeting lasted about three hours in a constructive and useful atmosphere, which helped both sides understand each other's viewpoints on the Cambodian issue. During the talks both sides also mentioned bilateral relations. The U.S. side assessed the talks as good.

After the meeting, answering newsmen's question about Vietnam's attitude toward the agreement of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council on a solution to the Cambodian issue, Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang welcomed and highly assessed the efforts of the five countries that have taken the right direction in finding a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian issue. Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang stressed: The internal problems concerning Cambodian sovereignty will be agreed upon and decided. Vietnam will respect those agreements. The Paris international conference on Cambodia will be based on agreements among the Cambodian sides and those of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to reach a comprehensive agreement on the Cambodian issue.

Both sides agreed to meet the third time. The time for the meeting will be decided later.

U.S. MIA Specialists' Activities Reported

BK0109104890 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] From 6-31 August 1990, the joint Vietnamese and American teams of specialists carried out 11 searches for Americans missing in the Vietnam war. Also during this period, an American team carried out the identification of 70 sets of remains discovered during unilateral and joint searches. The American specialists left Hanoi on Friday [31 August].

45th National Day, August Revolution Marked

Laos, Cambodia Send Greetings

BK0309161990 Hanoi VNA in English 1513 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept 3—Vietnamese party and state leaders have received greetings from Lao and Cambodian leaders on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of Vietnam's National Day (Sept.2) and August Revolution (Aug. 19).

A joint message from Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the Lao Council of Ministers, Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Supreme Assembly to Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, president of the State Council; Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Le Quang Dao, chairman of the National Assembly says:

"The victories scored by the Vietnamese people in liberating, defending, and developing their country under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam founded by President Ho Chi Minh are of great significance."

The message describes the Vietnamese people's renovation process as a contribution to strengthening the special ties of friendship and solidarity between the three Indochinese countries and a catalyst to the struggle for safeguarding peace and security in Southeast Asia, the Asian-Pacific region and other parts of the world.

The Lao leaders expressed their wishes for the further development of the Lao-Vietnamese relations in the interests of the revolutionary cause and the peoples of both countries.

—Chea Sim, chairman of the National Council of the United Front for the Construction and Defense of the Kampuchea Fatherland, has extended his greetings to the president of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, Nguyen Huu Tho, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of the August Revolution.

Chairman Chea Sim said that the August Revolution was an encouragement to the struggle in Cambodia, and that the Cambodian people's January 17, 1979 victory over the genocidal Pol Pot regime is the outcome of the solidarity between the two countries.

He expressed his sincere thanks to the Vietnamese State, Fatherland Front and people for having saved the Cambodian people from the danger of genocide and for having helped them in national defense and construction.

Anniversary Celebrated Abroad

BK0309090290 Hanoi VNA in English 0708 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 3—A big mass meeting was arranged in the Lao capital of Vientiane last Friday to mark the 45th anniversary of Vietnam's August Revolution (August 19) and National Day (September 2).

It was attended by, among others, Phoumi Vongvichit, Politburo member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and acting president of Laos Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Supreme Assembly and Vietnamese Ambassador Nguyen Xuan.

In his commemorative speech, Phoumi Vongvichit hailed Vietnam's major achievements over the past 45 years as important contributions to the common cause of the world people for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress as well as for peace and stability in Southeast Asia. He described the special relationship between the two countries as a decisive factor for the existence and development of each country's revolution, and thanked the Communist Party, the government and the people of Vietnam for their solidarity with and support and assistance to the Lao revolution. He also affirmed that the entire Lao people would do their utmost to strengthen the traditional special solidarity and friendship between the two parties, two countries and two peoples.

Also on this occasion, a photo exhibition on Vietnam and the Vietnam-Laos friendship and cooperation was opened in the Lao capital.

A mass meeting was organized in Pyongyang on August 30 to mark the 45th anniversary of Vietnam's National Day.

Speaking at the function, Korean Minister of Finance Yun Ki-chong highlighted Vietnam's achievements in socialist construction and hailed the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

—Earlier, on August 27, the Peace, Friendship and Solidarity Organization of Afghanistan and the Afghanistan-Vietnam Friendship Association organized a meeting in Kabul to mark Vietnam's two major national anniversaries.

Leaders Attend Meeting 1 Sep

BK0109053490 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] This morning, 1 September, the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee, and the Party and People's Committees of Hanoi Municipality held a grand meeting at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi to mark the 45th anniversary of the August Revolution and the 2 September National Day.

Attending the meeting were Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the party Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State; Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and Pham Van Dong, adviser to the party Central Committee. Also on hand were many other party and state leaders; veteran revolutionary cadres; representatives of various departments, sectors, and mass organizations at the central level and in Hanoi; representatives of the Armed Forces and of people of various strata in the capital city. Among those present were members of the diplomatic missions in Hanoi and domestic and foreign press and news agency correspondents.

Delivering a speech at the meeting, Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, affirmed the process of struggle for independence of our entire party, army, and people. He asserted: The past 45 years was a period of brilliant development in the long history of our nation. That glorious stage of history was opened with the victory of the August Revolution, which gave birth to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

In his speech, the chairman also assessed the achievements recorded in the process of socialist construction and the renovation process since the sixth party congress. At the same time, it pointed out the future tasks that our entire party and people must carry out in the subsequent stages.

Officials Attend Festival

BK0409095190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] At the Lenin Park in Hanoi on 1 September, the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports, and Tourism, the Hanoi municipal party and people's committees, and the capital cultural and information office jointly organized a solemn cultural and sports festival to mark the 45th National Day anniversary.

Attending the function were tens of thousands of people in Hanoi and from the provinces. Many student artistic troupes from cultural, arts, and teachers schools, as well as elderly people, enthusiastically participated in parades depicting events of our 4,000-year national history.

The most striking one was the parade of former combatants of the National Defense Army who carried the historic makeshift three-pronged bombs and a miniature of the Ba Dinh rostrum in which the declaration of independence was made on 2 September 1945. The parade reminded the people of today about their duty to uphold the glorious revolutionary tradition of the nation, while traditional revolutionary songs were played and sung throughout Lenin Park.

Also attending the function were comrades Nguyen Thanh Binh, Pham The Duyet, Nguyen Khanh, Tran Hoan, Le At Hoi, many leading comrades of the Hanoi Municipal party and people's committees, and representatives of families who rendered meritorious services to the revolution.

Firecrackers were also set off at night, which helped brighten the sky and draw more people to the festival.

Vo Chi Cong Grants Interview

BK0209083690 Hanoi VNA in English 0701 GMT 2 Sep 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 2—State Council President Vo Chi Cong has granted an interview to the Hanoi-based TASS correspondent.

Asked about the significance of the August 1945 Revolution and its historical lessons to the implementation of the renovation policy set forth by the 6th party congress, President Vo Chi Cong said:

"The August Revolution is an extremely important event marking a great turning-point in Vietnam's history and exerting a profound, and great impact on the oppressed people's anti-imperialist struggle for national liberation.

"The decisive factor for the triumph of the August Revolution in particular and for the victory of the Vietnamese people's revolutionary cause in general is the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, a genuine Marxist-Leninist party founded and trained by President Ho Chi Minh. The party has defined correct line, constantly upholding the banners of national independence and socialism, the party is closely linked to the people and has always striven for self-renovation and the renewal of leadership to ensure its political vanguard role in society."

"The revolution is the people's cause. To build and defend socialism we must put into full play the great potentials of different social classes and people of all walks of life, thus creating the combined strength of the national community on the basis of the worker-peasant-socialist intellectual-alliance.

"It is necessary to ceaselessly safeguard, build and strengthen the revolutionary administration and make sure that our state is of the people, by the people and for the people. The state has to promote the people's right to mastery, realise socialist democracy and constantly enforce the socialist law."

"All successes of the Vietnamese revolution have been inseparable from the militant solidarity and mutual cooperation and assistance among the three countries of Vietnamese, Laos and Cambodia; from the militant solidarity, comprehensive cooperation and great and effective assistance of the Soviet Union; from the enthusiastic assistance of China and other socialist countries; and also from the positive support of all forces of national independence, democracy and peace the world over."

Asked about the most complicated tasks in the present stage of the Vietnamese revolution and necessary conditions for the successful implementation of such tasks, President Vo Chi Cong said:

"From now to the year 2000, the already-defined task is to continue to accelerate the process of comprehensive renovation in line with the resolution of the 6th party congress, consolidate and develop the initial results of great importance obtained from the course of revolution over the past three years, determinedly overcome all short-comings and errors and promptly settle the urgent socio-economic problems specified by the 8th and 9th plenums of the party Central Committee."

The state leader pointed out that Vietnam is resolved to maintain political stability to ensure the socio-economic stability and development, step by step surmount all difficulties, improve the people's living conditions, and facilitate the successful realization of the current renovation.

On the Vietnamese state's role and position in face of swift changes of the current international conjuncture, President Vo Chi Cong said:

"The Communists and people of Vietnam are convinced that socialism will certainly overcome trials and gradually surmount difficulties to continue its advance. The struggle of the world people for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress, in spite of many difficulties ahead will surely continue to develop. Its growth is irresistible.

"The primary concern of the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in its external activities is to contribute to peace and stability in Southeast Asia and the world as a whole and broaden its international relations, thus creating favourable conditions for the implementation of its renovation policy aimed at taking the country constantly forward."

Australia

More Than 1,000 Protest Involvement in Gulf

BK0109064590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0625 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Sydney, Sept 1 (AFP)—More than 1,000 people marched here Saturday to protest against Australia's involvement in the gulf force assembled by the United States. The protesters gathered at the U.S. consulate before marching in opposition to Prime Minister Bob Hawke's decision to send naval ships to the Middle East.

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD newspaper claimed that Mr. Hawke had "begged" U.S. President George Bush for an invitation to join the gulf armada. Mr. Hawke had stated he was responding to U.S. overtures when he decided to send warships HMAS Adelaide, HMAS Darwin and supply ship HMAS Success to the gulf.

Australians of Arab origin and peace groups were among those who listened to speakers slam Mr. Hawke's decision.

Committee of Arab Australians Spokesman Eddie Zananiri told the gathering: "This is not Australia's war."

Others cited U.S. economic interest as Washington's motive for mobilising the force against Iraq. One banner read (with logos emphasised): "We Shell Not Exxonerate Saddam Hussein for his actions. We Will Mobilize To Meet This Threat to Our Vital Interests in the Persian Gulf Until an Amocoble Solution is Reached."

Speakers also applauded leading Seaman Terry Jones, who deserted HMAS Adelaide after seeing news footage of Mr. Bush playing golf.

Demonstrations were also held in Adelaide, Melbourne and Brisbane.

The HERALD said its inquiries showed that Australia had lobbied Washington for an invitation. The paper said that sources, which remained unidentified, in both the U.S. State Department and the Mr. Hawke's department of prime minister and cabinet confirmed that Canberra had courted Washington.

New Zealand

Palmer Resigns; Moore Named Prime Minister

BK0409003690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0005 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Wellington, Sept 4 (AFP)—New Zealand Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer said here Tuesday he had resigned. The new prime minister is former Foreign Minister Michael Moore, 41.

Mr. Palmer told journalists he was quitting to help his labour party win elections in eight weeks, adding that he would not stand for parliament.

Speaking at a post-caucus press conference, he said two candidates had stood for the top post. One was a backbench MP [member of parliament] Richard Northey but Mr. Moore "was victorious."

Mr. Palmer said he would go to Government House to tender his resignation shortly.

He said he had decided to quit Monday night after talking with his wife.

Mr. Palmer said he expected few changes to the cabinet and had agreed to serve as environment minister outside of cabinet.

Moore Sworn In

BK0409004690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0033 GMT 4 Sep 90

[Text] Wellington, Sept 4 (AFP)—New Zealand's newly elected prime minister, Michael Moore, left parliament early Tuesday to be sworn in by Governor-General Sir Paul Reeves.

At a brief press conference, Mr. Moore said the ruling Labour Party would win upcoming general elections. Helen Clark would remain deputy prime minister, he said. He refused to say who would serve as finance minister, the post currently held by David Caygill.

Palmer's Career Discussed

BK0409005690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0027 GMT 4 Sep 90

[By Michael Field]

[Text] Wellington, Sept 4 (AFP)—No one ever doubted Geoffrey Palmer was the most academically talented prime minister the New Zealand ever had. But the country and his Labour Party could stomach only 13 months of his stewardship. What killed his political career here Tuesday was arrogance and total lack of feeling for people and their concerns.

Earlier this year, in the run-up to October 27 elections, party image makers got to work on him. The result was a disaster. He was told to smile a lot, and was consequently widely labelled "goofy." He tried to crack jokes, dance and go to rugby matches but his discomfort was always clear.

Fellow cabinet member Bill Sutton said in August: "He is not a charismatic leader. That is all there is to it."

Mr. Palmer, 48, has never been a natural Labour member and confessed several years ago that it was a toss-up whether he joined National or Labour.

His background is one of privilege: educated at elite Nelson College, taking a law degree from Victoria University here and a doctor of law cum laude at the University of Chicago. He has held professorships at the University of Iowa and the University of Virginia in the United States.

As an academic he worked on the staff of former Australian Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, specialising in superannuation. He was with Mr. Whitlam when the ill-fated premier was sacked, and has never forgiven Mr. Whitlam's successor Malcolm Fraser. He never denied reports that at last year's Commonwealth heads of government meeting he personally sought to end any chance Mr. Fraser had of becoming Commonwealth secretary general.

Mr. Palmer returned to New Zealand and professorships in English and constitutional law at Victoria University, where he wrote a critique of New Zealand's parliamentry system titled "Unbridled Power." He has been frequently assailed by his own words while in office.

He entered parliament in a 1979 by-election. He won the deputy prime minister's post when Labour swept to power in 1984, and earned himself a reputation for efficiency in putting together behind-the-scenes deals. Mr. Palmer became prime minister on August 8, 1989, taking over from David Lange—who resigned after a fierce row in the cabinet over the government's economic policies.

He is the latest in a line of prime ministers to fail. In 1974 on the death of then Prime Minister Norman Kirk, Bill Rowling took over, only to take a beating in general elections a year later. The same fate befell Jack Marshall, who succeeded Sir Keith Holyoake in 1972.

Moore Called 'Survivor'

BK0409015090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0118 GMT 4 Sep 90

[By Michael Field]

[Text] Wellington, Sept 4 (AFP)—New Zealand's new prime minister, 41-year-old Michael Kenneth Moore, is a literal survivor—he found life after a severe political beating and after a near-fatal bout with cancer.

Foreign minister until Monday, Mr. Moore is a wheeler-dealer of the old political school. He seldom hid his ambitions, once saying: "The only jobs to have in politics are prime minister or minister of finance. All the rest are just branch managers."

In a 1987 book, "Hard Labour," Mr. Moore said his every action has been taken as having the "most sordid of motives, the darkest flavour of ambition and conspiracy."

He comes from a poor background and lived in near poverty in New Zealand's rural far north. His father died when he was six and his mother's second marriage, he said, was "sad." The Moore boys left home at an early age.

His upbringing made him a socialist, but not in the old style. He wants to smash the system, he says, that caused his family to grow up in poverty.

He joined the Labour Party while working as a bricklayer's labourer at the age of 16. In 1969 he became campaign manager for Roger Douglas, who would much later become New Zealand's most radical finance minister. Mr. Moore came into parliament on the Labour landslide under then Prime Minister Norman Kirk in 1972. Three years later he was kicked out, along with the Labour government.

He became nightwatchman on a harbour dredge and worked in a mental hospital until he won his way back into parliament in a 1978 by-election, only to learn days after his victory that he had a rapidly growing cancer and only months to live. He survived.

"When you've been down to a couple of stone in weight and you've got no bloody hair and the rest of it, then becoming bald, which is one of the great tragedies men have to go through, it's not such a bloody great tragedy, is it? "And there is nothing anyone can ever do to me that hasn't been done to me in my life, in a physical or personal way."

He will not reveal the kind of cancer he had, saying the information might be used to calculate his survival odds as "there are some pretty cruel people about."

Mr. Moore has a flare for publicity and promotion unrivalled in New Zealand. He adopted as a personal crusade New Zealand's campaign for the yachting America's Cup, becoming, until recently "minister for the America's Cup." To help mutton sales, he devised, cooked and sold "lamburgers."

But he is also accused of being a trader in buzzwords, and his speeches often sound as if he received the Oxford Book of Quotes as a Christmas gift.

Mr. Moore is an internationalist, last year convening the eminent persons group, which includes some of the world's leading politicians now pushing for free trade within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

He has always played an inside role in the Labour Party, and was a member of the "fish and chips brigade," a small group of Labour MPs [members of parliament] who got David Lange elected as party leader and then prime minister. Mr. Lange rewarded him when they swept back into power in 1984. Mr. Moore became minister of overseas trade and marketing, tourism and recreation and sport.

Until Monday he was ranked number three in cabinet with the same posts plus the ministership for external relations and trade.

Mr. Douglas, the former finance minister, said Mr. Moore was very demanding of the bureucracy. "He has more ideas a minute than anyone else I've ever known—more than he can get down on paper and into a framework so people can get to work."

Mr. Moore also has something of a ruthless image as a result of his involvement in previous Labour coups.

"The hardest thing in politics is shooting the wounded," he said. "Nobody particularly likes putting the family pet down ... (politics) is a blood sport. If I go out in the boxing ring I want to knock the bastard senseless, and I'll do it as quickly as I can, and I hope to do it in a way he'll never get up. You'd feel bad if he got brain damage or something. But after the boxing's over ... 'Nothing personal, I just wanted to destroy you.'"